A MAP of BARBARY Comprehending MOROCCO, FEZ, ALGIERS, TUNIS and TRIPOLI.

Sold by Mathew Carey N.118 Markets treet Philad.a J. T. Scott sculp.

SPAIN
PORTUGAL
Lisbon
ATLANTIC
OCEAN
Mediterranean
SARDINIA
SICILY
Minorca
Majorca
Ivica
Malta
Gozo
Lampedosa
Pantellaria
MADEIRA ISLES
Porto Santo
Madeira
Desertas
CANARY ISLANDS
Canaria
Tenariffe
Palma
Gomera
Ferro
Lancerota
Fuerteventura
Cabinde
Mogodor
Santa Cruz
Tarudant
Tafilet
Tedla
Fez
Mequinez
Tetuan
Tangier
Gibraltar
Ceuta
Salle
Rabat
Algiers
Bona
Bugia
Tenes
Mascara
Tremecen
Oran
Mostagan
Tedelis
Medea
Metija
Coleah
Constantina
Setif
Biscara
Zeb
Ziban
Tuggurt
Wadreag
Ghadames
Tripoli
Lebida
Mesurata
Tripoli
Gharian
Yefren
Nalut
Gadamis
Ghedemes
Nefta
Tebid
Tebelbelt
Desert of Angad
Desert of Zaara
Desert of Sudah
Country of the Hembrim Arabs
Bled el Jerid
Bled el Dara
Bled el Negrid
Tegerarin
Wadreag
Tuggurt
Biscara
Zeb
Ziban
Setif
Metija
Algiers
Bona
Bugia
Oran
Tremecen
Mascara
Tenes
Mostagan
Tedelis
Medea
Coleah
Constantina
Tripoli
Lebida
Mesurata

A

SHORT ACCOUNT

OF

ALGIERS,

AND

OF ITS SEVERAL WARS

AGAINST SPAIN, FRANCE, ENGLAND, HOLLAND, VENICE, AND OTHER POWERS OF EUROPE, FROM THE USURPATION OF BARBAROSSA AND THE INVASION OF THE EMPEROR CHARLES V. TO THE PRESENT TIME.

WITH

A CONCISE VIEW

OF THE

ORIGIN OF THE RUPTURE

BETWEEN

ALGIERS AND THE UNITED STATES.

AUT HISCE TELLUS IN PATULOS SPECUS,
ÆTHERVE FLAMMIS PERDE SEQUACIBUS
TURPES COLONOS, *AFRICANÆ*
DEDECUS, OPPROBRIUMQUE TERRÆ.

Buchanan.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

A COPIOUS APPENDIX,

CONTAINING

LETTERS FROM CAPTAINS PENROSE, M'SHANE, AND SUNDRY OTHER AMERICAN CAPTIVES, WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE TREATMENT THOSE PRISONERS EXPERIENCE.

SECOND EDITION, IMPROVED.

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SHORT ACCOUNT, &c.

CHAPTER I.

General deſcription of the country of Algiers. Climate. Sea-coaſt. Principal cities.

ALGIERS is a country which derives its name from its metropolis; and extends four hundred and eighty miles in length from eaſt to weſt along the northern coaſt of Africa. Its utmoſt breadth is three hundred and twenty miles, but at the diſtance of an hundred miles from the the ſea-coaſt, that part of Africa becomes a barren deſert, almoſt utterly uninhabitable either by man or beaſt. Algiers is ſituated between thirty-two and thirty-ſeven degrees of north latitude, which correſponds to that of the United States, from Virginia to Carolina, incluſive. It is bounded on the north, by the Mediterranean ſea; on the ſouth, by mount Atlas; on the eaſt, by the country of Tunis; and on the weſt, by the river Mulvia, which ſeparates it from the empire of Morocco.

The principal rivers, which water the territory of Algiers, riſe in Mount Atlas, and run by a northerly direction into the Mediterranean ſea. They are ſeven in number. None of them has a long courſe, or even is navigable; at leaſt none of them is made uſe of in navigation. It is however likely that they might be made uſe of for this purpoſe, were the inhabitants of a more intelligent and induſtrious character; for ſome of them are of a tolerable depth. Such is the groſs ignorance of the natives in whatever concerns domeſtic improvement, that there is not a ſingle bridge over any of theſe rivers. When they are to be croſſed, the traveller hath ſometimes to wander for ſeveral miles in ſearch of a ford, as ferry boats are unknown. If a heavy rain happens to fall, he is forced to wait, till the river returns to its uſual ſize.

This country conſiſts of eighteen provinces. The climate is remarkably delightful. The air is pure and ſerene. The ſoil is covered with almoſt a perpetual verdure. Extreme heat is not common. This deſcription applies to the lands on the

ſea-coaſt; for as we advance into the country, the ſoil becomes more parched and barren. Indeed a conſiderable part of the back country is a ſavage deſert, abounding with lions, tigers, leopards, buffaloes, wild boars, and porcupines. And it muſt be acknowledged, that theſe animals are not the leaſt amiable inhabitants of this country.

There are few towns of any conſequence, though when ſucceſſively under the dominion of Carthage and Rome, it abounded with populous cities. Bona is ſuppoſed to be the ſame place with the ancient Hippo, a ſea-port built by the ancients. It was formerly the capital of the province of Bona. It lies on the Mediterranean ſea, and there is a coral fiſhery near it. It is a town of no importance, and of ſlender population. In this part of the world, elegant architecture has, for many centuries, been utterly forgotten or deſpiſed. The buildings of Bona, as every where elſe, are therefore mean. It is expoſed to the incurſions of the Arabs. The name of this people is uſed by travellers in a very indefinite manner. Algiers is at the diſtance of ſome hundreds of leagues from Arabia: but as this part of Africa was formerly conquered by that nation, under the banners of Mahomet, the name is ſtill applied to a race of tawny and independent barbarians, who wander in gangs about the country, and unite the double profeſſions of a ſhepherd and a robber. Bona was formerly a magnificent city. Its grandeur is now only to be traced in the ruins of a monaſtery. It has a fortreſs, and a garriſon of three hundred Turks, as the banditti chuſe to call themſelves; a Turk being the moſt reputable title in that country. This circumſtance is alone ſufficient to aſcertain the depth of its wretchedneſs. Theſe adventurers however are not Turks, but the ſweepings of all nations blended together. They are commanded by an aga, who is likewiſe governor of the town. Bona was taken by Charles V. in his expedition to Tunis, but was not long after recovered by its former maſters.

Conſtantina is ſituated on the river Sef Gomar, forty-eight miles from the ſea-coaſt. It received its preſent name from that of a princeſs, the daughter of the emperor Conſtantine, to whom it was indebted for magnificence. The ſituation is on a peninſula, difficult of acceſs, except towards the ſouth-weſt. It is one mile in circumference, well fortified, and contains many fragments of ancient architecture. In particular there is part of a noble bridge; and near it is a large ſubterraneous aqueduct, which terminates in a caſcade. State criminals are ſometimes precipitated down this place, and daſhed to pieces againſt the rocks at its bottom. A bey reſides here, and has under his command three hundred Turkiſh horſe, and one

thouſand five hundred Mooriſh ſoldiers. This is the account given by travellers, though it is not likely that the number of the garriſon is always the ſame. In details of this kind, we muſt be contented with the beſt materials that can be had, though ſometimes not entirely above exception. The inhabitants of Conſtantina are ſaid to be opulent and haughty. This city was formerly the reſidence of a race of kings who governed the province of Conſtantina, of which it is the metropolis; but in the year 1520, the whole territory was conquered by Barbaroſſa, that diſtinguiſhed ſcourge of mankind, who annexed it to the government of Algiers. Some ſplendid ruins exiſt in the vicinity of Conſtantina. Upon the ſea-coaſt, at a ſmall diſtance from it, are the traces of a Roman colony, anciently called Colo. It is ſituated on a high rock, and has a garriſon. Adjoining to it is a French factory, to which the Moors bring hides, wax, and wool, for ſale. At no great diſtance are the remains of the ancient city of Stora. It is ſaid that the mountainous part of this territory is inhabited by a hardy people, who can raiſe forty thouſand fighting men. It is not probable, that thoſe writers who made this aſſertion had ever an opportunity of counting their number. Hiſtory abounds with ſuch random calculations. The vagabond who founded Rome has been ſupplied by the generoſity of ſucceeding hiſtorians, with an army about equally numerous, though it is, at the ſame time, acknowledged, that his *kingdom* was only ſeven or eight miles in length.

Gigeri is ſituated about fifteen miles from Bona. It contains about fifteen hundred houſes, and the inhabitants are very poor. It is defended by a fort and a ſmall garriſon. The natives of this part of the country are independent and barbarous. They retire, when circumſtances require it, to inacceſſible faſtneſſes, and ſet the dey of Algiers at defiance. Ships, when wrecked on this coaſt, are plundered, and the crews are treated with the utmoſt ſavageneſs. In this reſpect, however, the natives of the territory of Gigeri cannot differ much for the worſe from the reſt of their countrymen; nor is the practice peculiar to Barbary. Scenes of the ſame kind are frequently acted, and if any thing can be ſtill more infamous, are almoſt always acted with impunity, on the coaſt of Cornwall, and other maritime counties of England.* The French, in the year 1666, had begun to fortify Gigeri. They were driven from it by the

* There is a ſtory of an Engliſh parſon, whoſe congregation, during the time of divine ſervice, heard of a ſhipwreck. In ſpite of his utmoſt efforts to detain them, the whole aſſembly ruſhed out of church, in a body, to divide the plunder.

Algerines, with the loſs of their cannon, and moſt of their effects.

Bugia was formerly the capital of a kingdom of the ſame name. It ſtands at the mouth of the river Major, or Zinganor, about twenty leagues to the eaſtward of Algiers. It is little better than a heap of ruins; a deſcription which applies to almoſt every town in that part of the world. It has three caſtles, two at the port, and one upon a rock, at a ſmall diſtance behind them. In the year 1671, a Britiſh admiral took or deſtroyed, in this harbour, nine Algerine ſhips of war. It is extremely ſeldom, that an admiral has been charged with ſuch a laudable commiſſion.

Steſſa or Steffa is ſituated in a fertile valley, ſixty miles to the ſouth of Bugia, and fifteen miles from the ſea. It exhibits only the melancholy ruins of its former magnificence, containing about three hundred miſerable families.

Tebef was formerly a flouriſhing city, but is at preſent extremely reduced. Zamoura is in the ſame condition. It is defended by a fort. Couco was once the metropolis of a kingdom of the ſame name. Its ſovereigns were in the habit of forming alliances with the court of Spain. For this reaſon, the Algerines, in the beginning of the ſeventeenth century, ravaged the whole country, and deſtroyed every town in it. The inhabitants have ſtill ſupported their independence, by taking refuge in the mountainous parts of the country, which are ſaid to be very fertile; but the Algerines prevent them from holding any intercourſe with foreign nations. Biſcara has a fort and garriſon. One of the chief employments of the people here, is to catch and tame lions, tigers, and other beaſts of prey, which they carry for ſale to Algiers. Necanz is one of the pleaſanteſt towns in Barbary. It is watered by an agreeable river, whoſe banks are adorned with a variety of beautiful trees. The town contains a magnificent moſque and a college for the education of Mahometan ſtudents.

Oran is ſituated about two hundred and fifty miles weſt of Algiers. It lies partly on a plain, and partly on the aſcent of a hill. It is a mile and an half in circumference and tolerably fortified. But it is unfortunately commanded by ſome of the neighbouring eminences; ſo that a garriſon of ten or twelve thouſand men is neceſſary to defend it with ſucceſs againſt a ſkilful enemy. As the Spaniſh coaſts and merchant ſhips had ſuffered much from the corſairs of this port, Ferdinand, king of Spain, determined to attempt its reduction. For this purpoſe, he tranſported into Africa an army, under the command of his prime miniſter cardinal Ximenes, one of thoſe few ſtateſmen, who have not deſerved the deteſtation of mankind.

The wonted good fortune of Ximenes did not, at this juncture, desert him. He had maintained a correspondence with some of the people of Oran; and when the Moors sallied out to attack the Spanish army, their perfidious countrymen shut the gates against them. Ximenes killed four thousand of the barbarians, and set at liberty twenty thousand Christian slaves. The Algerines, during almost two hundred years, made frequent and unsuccessful attempts to recover the town. At last, in 1708, they retook it. In June, 1732, a Spanish army was disembarked not far from Oran. The Turkish commander, his troops, and the inhabitants were seized with a panic, and abandoned their fortifications without much resistance. The victors found in the place an hundred and forty-six pieces of cannon, besides mortars, and at least fifty ship loads of provisions. This latter supply contributed much to the preservation of their new conquest. Without it they must have run the greatest hazard of perishing in the midst of success; as a tempest, which lasted for several days, cut off all intercourse between the army upon shore, and the fleet at sea. The Moors not long after attacked the Spaniards with great fury, but were finally repulsed with much slaughter on both sides. Oran is still possessed by Spain.

Tremesen was formerly the capital town of a kingdom of that name. It is situated ninety miles south-west of Oran, surrounded by a strong wall and well fortified. It has five gates with draw-bridges before them, and a castle containing handsome barracks for the Janisaries who are in garrison. Tremesen while a metropolis was a splendid city. It contained one hundred and fifty mosques, and one hundred and sixty public baths. Since it ceased to be the seat of an independent government, it hath shrunk into ruins and desolation. The mosques are reduced to eight, and its public baths to four. The inhabitants are extremely indigent.

Mostagan stands fifty miles east of Oran. This town is built in the form of a theatre opening to the sea, and surrounded on every other side with rocks that hang over it. The ruins of an old Moorish castle stand in a space between the rocks, and there is a strong stone wall towards the port, with a modern built castle, garrisoned by a number of Turks. The citadel is erected upon the summit of one of the rocks, and commands both city and territory. The haven is commodious, and the town is well supplied with water. The neighbouring mountains are inhabited by a people called Magarabas, who live in tents, possess a great number of flocks, and pay to the dey of Algiers twelve thousand crowns annually. There is a handsome mosque in this town.

Tenez is ſituated about one hundred miles to the eaſtward of Oran, twenty miles eaſt of Moſtagan, and at a league diſtant from the ſea, where it has a convenient port. There is a caſtle that was once a royal palace, and in which the governor reſides. The fortifications are ſtrong, the garriſon numerous, and the neighbouring territory fertile. This was ſuppoſed to have been the Julia Cæſarea of the ancients.

Sercelli lies between Tenez and Algiers, about twenty-four miles to the weſtward of the latter. It is defended by a Turkiſh garriſon, and has a port, which will only admit of ſmall veſſels. This was anciently a large and populous city, but is at preſent a poor and deſolate place.

The ſouthern part of the Algerine territories is inhabited by a wandering race of people, who, like the Tartars, roam from place to place, and live in tents. The country itſelf is hilly, a branch of mount Atlas running through it. The only riches of the people are their numerous flocks and herds. The government exacts a tribute from them, but a bey is obliged to come annually at the head of an army to collect it; and many of them retire to inacceſſible places till the troops are withdrawn, in order to evade the payment.

Algiers itſelf ſtands on a bay of the Mediterranean ſea. It is built on the ſide of a mountain. The houſes riſe gradually from the ſea-ſhore up the aſcent, in the form of an amphitheatre. The town appears beautiful at a diſtance, when approaching from the water. The moſques, caſtles, and other public buildings have a ſtriking effect; but the ſtreets are narrow, and the houſes mean. The roofs are flat, ſo that the people can viſit each other, at a conſiderable diſtance in the town without going into the ſtreets. The walls are about a league in circumference, and defended by ſome ſquare towers and baſtions. The port has a pier about five hundred paces in length, which extends from the continent to a ſmall rocky iſland called the Lantern. On this iſland, there is a caſtle with three lines of braſs cannon. The town has five gates, ten great moſques, and fifty leſſer ones, and is computed to contain an hundred thouſand inhabitants. The fortifications are extenſive and ſtrong. The Chriſtian ſlaves are often employed in removing ſtones from a quarry, at ſome diſtance in the country, which they lay on the ſand, to defend the mole from the impetuoſity of the waves. This laborious work is never at an end, becauſe the ſea conſtantly waſhes away the ſtones, and makes a perpetual ſupply neceſſary. One ſtreet, which is broad and handſome, paſſes through the town from eaſt to weſt; but all the other ſtreets are narrow, incommodious, and dirty. There are ſaid to be

fifteen thouſand houſes, which are commonly built round a ſmall ſquare with a paved court in the centre. Around this court is a double range of galleries, one above the other, and both ſupported by columns. The palace of the dey ſtands in the centre of the city. This building is very extenſive, and ſurrounded by two ſuperb galleries, ſupported by marble pillars. There is a law here, by which any woman convicted of amorous correſpondence with a Chriſtian, is thrown into the ſea, with her head tied up in a ſack, unleſs her lover chuſes to turn Mahometan. Examples of this kind are not unfrequent, as the fair ſex, in that part of the world, are ſaid to be remarkably frail. Six of the baths have been converted into priſons for the Chriſtian ſlaves. In each of theſe, there is a chapel for the free exercıſe of their religion. Every ſlave is let out at a certain hour in the morning, and muſt return at a ſtated hour at night, in order to be locked up. Each of them is allowed a matraſs and a rug for a bed. There are ſeveral tolerable edifices without the walls of the town, which add to the beauty of the environs. Among theſe are a variety of Turkiſh ſepulchres and monuments. One of theſe monuments contains ſix magnificent tombs of a circular figure. They were erected to the memory of ſix deys, who were, in the courſe of a few days, ſucceſſively elected and murdered. There is perhaps no nation in the world from which we may not learn ſome uſeful leſſon. With reſpect to the burial of their dead, travellers inform us, that the Mahometans diſcover a degree of delicacy, of which Chriſtians have no conception. In our church yards, nothing is more common, and ſurely nothing can be more completely ſhocking, than to ſee graves broke up, a ſecond time, before the perſon has returned to his original duſt; and the remains of the dead are toſſed about with as little ceremony as poſſible. This wretched violation of decency ariſes from the orthodox deſire of being buried in holy ground; a practice which has no doubt been encouraged by the parties concerned, for the purpoſe of exacting a high price. Exorbitant demands of this kind have not long ſince been paid within leſs than an hundred miles of Philadelphia. The Algerines, and the other profeſſors of the Mahometan religion, would regard it as an act of the moſt barbarous ſacrilege to diſturb the remains of the dead, by opening their graves, at any diſtance of time, or upon any pretence whatever. Hence their burial grounds in the neighbourhood of a large city are ſometimes ten miles in extent.

Algiers had formerly nothing but rain water. A Moor, who had been driven from Spain, conſtructed two aqueducts, by which it is now ſupplied with abundance of excellent water

from the adjacent mountains. The country around this city is very fertile. Country-ſeats, gardens, and groves of trees are ſaid to be numerous. The Algerines are unacquainted with the art of pruning and grafting trees. Their gardens are not walled, but fenced round with a peculiar ſpecies of fig-trees, which from their prickles, and the compactneſs with which their branches interweave, are well adapted for that purpoſe. Among other rich tracts in the province of Algiers Proper, the great plain of Mettijah is admired for its aſtoniſhing fertility. It is fifty miles in length, twenty in breadth, and includes many villas, fragrant groves, and delightful gardens. The ſoil produces ſuch a profuſion of the moſt delicious fruits, rice, roots, and grain of every ſpecies, that the inhabitants enjoy annually two, and frequently three crops. The hot baths of Meereega, in the neighbourhood of this city, are natural curioſities. The principal one is twelve feet ſquare and four deep. The water is very hot, and when it has filled the larger baſon, runs through into another of a ſmaller ſize, where the Jews bathe, as they are not permitted to uſe the ſame bath, with the Mahometans. Theſe hot fountains are conjectured to proceed from the great quantities of ſulphur, nitre, and other inflammable ſubſtances in the bowels of the earth. To this cauſe likewiſe have been aſcribed thoſe earthquakes, to which the whole country, and Algiers in particular, are frequently ſubjected.

CHAPTER II.

Cuſtoms. Religion. Government. Land Forces. Corſairs.

THE preſent inhabitants of the territory of Algiers are compoſed of a multitude of different nations. Among theſe are the Moors or Moreſcos who were driven out of Spain about the end of the ſixteenth century, and the Arabians who trace their deſcent from thoſe diſciples of Mahomet who formerly ſubdued this country. Levantines, Turks, Jews, and Chriſtian ſlaves, with a croud formed of the poſterity of all theſe different people, make up the reſt of the population. The Moors and Arabs are the moſt numerous. The former compoſe the great body of the inhabitants of the towns. But it may be readily ſuppoſed, that amidſt ſuch a variety of different races, immenſe numbers cannot be ſaid to belong to any particular tribe or nation whatever. In this country there are many wandering bands of ſhepherds who live together in camps, and remove from one place to another as they want paſture for their herds and flocks, or as any other accidental circumſtance hap-

pens to make it neceſſary. They ſometimes pay rent to landlords, in corn, fruit, honey, wax, and other productions of the ſame kind. The dey likewiſe demands a tribute. The excellence of the climate renders this ſimple way of living tolerable, though the tents of theſe people are mean, their utenſils of little value, and their lodging filthy. The family and their domeſtic animals lie promiſcuouſly in the tents together, except the dogs, which are left on the outſide as guards. They raiſe conſiderable numbers of bees and of ſilk-worms. They ſubſiſt chiefly on bread, rice and fruit. Wine and ſpirituous liquors are almoſt entirely unknown.

The dreſs of the men is only a long piece of coarſe cloth wrapped round the ſhoulders, and falling down to their ankles, with a cap of the ſame ſtuff. The women pay ſome more attention to the ornamental part of dreſs The children are ſuffered to go ſtark naked till ſeven or eight years of age. The Sheik or chief of a tribe wears a cap of fine cloth. Theſe people are uſually called Arabs; their cuſtoms, language and religion bear a ſtrict affinity with thoſe of Arabia. They are robuſt and of a ſwarthy complexion. The men are active, the women prolific, and the children healthy. They have neither to encounter the hardſhips incident to the life of a North-American ſavage, nor are their conſtitutions enfeebled, as is ſometimes the caſe in manufacturing towns, by ſedentary and unhealthy employments. When a young man would marry, he drives a number of cattle to the hut where the parents of his miſtreſs reſide. The bride is ſet on horſeback and led home, amidſt the ſhouts of a croud of young people, who have been invited to the nuptial feaſt. When ſhe arrives at the hut of her lover, a mixture of milk and honey is given her to drink, and a ſong ſuitable to the occaſion is ſung. She then alights, and is preſented with a ſtick, which ſhe thruſts into the ground, and repeats ſome lines to the following effect: "As this ſtick is faſtened in the earth, ſo I am in duty bound "to my huſband; as nothing but violence can remove it, "ſo death alone ſhall force me from his love." She then drives his flock to water and back again, to ſhew her willingneſs to perform any duty that he may aſſign her. Theſe previous ceremonies being ſettled, all the company enter the hut, and the evening concludes with the greateſt feſtivity that theſe people are capable of enjoying. Subſequent to the marriage, the wife is obliged to wear a vail. She never ſtirs from the hut for the ſpace of a month, after that time. Theſe are the ceremonies reported to be cuſtomary in celebrating a marriage among the paſtoral tribes of Barbary. But narratives of this kind muſt be received, as biſhop Burnet admoniſhes the reader,

to peruſe his Hiſtory of his own times, viz. *with ſome grains of allowance.* Such uniform regularity is hardly to be expected among a race of wandering ſhepherds. Perhaps an African critic would turn from our deſcription of his country with as much diſdain, as a citizen of the United States feels in attempting to peruſe a frothy volume reſpecting North-America, fabricated by ſome of the profeſſional book-builders of Paris or of London.*

The Moors or Arabs, for the two names appear to be ſynonymous, are good horſemen, but great thieves. Their principal arms are a ſhort lance and a ſcymitar, though they are likewiſe acquainted with the bow and the muſket. It is dangerous to travel in the country, for fear of being robbed; but perſons are ſaid to be in ſafety, if attended by one of the Mahometan Marabouts or hermits. The inhabitants of the ſea-coaſt are perfectly verſant in the uſe of fire-arms.

Algiers retains the title of a kingdom; an epithet which might, without regret, be expunged from every human voca-

* The following curious circumſtances may ſerve to ſhew what kind of opinion ought to be entertained of the authors of oriental travels. In the year 1783, an adventurer, who called himſelf a modern Greek, publiſhed a ſmall volume entitled *the life of Ali Bey.* It contained ſome romantic ſtories, which the author atteſted as an eye-witneſs. About this time the court of France had diſpatched into Egypt Monſieur Savary, a gentleman of ſome note in the republic of letters. His buſineſs was to obtain authentic information concerning the ancient and modern ſituation of that country. He returned, and in due time publiſhed two large volumes, pregnant with learning and ſublimity. Monſieur Volney ſoon after entered the liſts as a third champion. He made a very ſevere attack on the veracity of his French predeceſſor. In particular, he upbraided him with having ſtolen a great number of pages, from a very contemptible impoſture which pretended to be a *life of Ali Bey.* This biographer, as an evidence, perhaps, of his claſſical pedigree, had aſſumed the name of *Coſmopolitos.* Volney added that a copy of the book having by chance come to Egypt, while he was there, the European merchants in that province could not help expreſſing their ſurprize, that their countrymen were ſtupid enough to digeſt ſuch ridiculous reveries. Monſieur Savary did not long ſurvive this humiliating diſcovery. But the "Modern Greek" replied in a volume of letters, which he inſcribed by permiſſion to Sir William Fordyce, an eminent Engliſh phyſician. In this work he affirms that Volney himſelf wrote HIS travels *in a garret at London.* BELLA! HORRIDA BELLA!

It is certainly, though not generally known, that the letters of Lady Mary Wortley Montague are the offspring of a mercantile pen. Even Baron Tott, and Mr. Bruce, though writers of *comparative* authenticity, require in the reader, ſtrong and frequent doſes of faith.

bulary. It is however a military republic, though it certainly can reflect no luſtre on that ſpecies of government. The national ordinances run in theſe words: "We, the great, and "ſmall members of the mighty and invincible militia of Al-"giers," &c The dey is elected by a divan compoſed from the army. He ſeldom ſecures his office, without tumult and bloodſhed; and he often falls by the dagger of an aſſaſſin. This ſovereign may with peculiar propriety adopt the expreſſion of one of the heroes of Oſſian: "I was born in the midſt "of battles, and my ſteps muſt move in blood to the tomb." The way in which his authority is exerciſed, correſponds with that by which it has been obtained. When Mr. Bruce, as Britiſh reſident at Algiers, had occaſion to viſit the dey, he ſometimes found him in his hall of audience, with his clothes all beſpattered with blood, like thoſe of a carcaſe butcher. It is a very frequent amuſement with him, to cauſe the heads of his ſubjects to be ſtruck off in his preſence. Mr. Bruce ſaid, that he knew of one man, who was executed, for no greater offence than becauſe a gun-flint was found upon him. His indictment and trial were very conciſe. "You raſcal, "what buſineſs have you with a flint, unleſs you were going "to conſpire againſt the ſtate?"

The aga of the Janiſaries is the officer next to the dey in dignity and power. He enjoys his poſt but two months, and then retires upon a penſion. The other officers of importance are a ſecretary of ſtate, twenty-four Chiah baſſas or colonels ſubordinate to the aga, eight hundred ſenior captains, and four hundred lieutenants. Among theſe officers, the right of ſeniority is ſtrictly obſerved. A breach of this point would be expected to produce a revolt among the ſoldiers, and might perhaps coſt the dey his life. Beſides theſe officers, there are others belonging to the Turkiſh forces, who form a ſeparate body. The dey has a corps of guards; a very neceſſary, though ſometimes a fruitleſs precaution; as any private ſoldier who has the courage to murder him, ſtands an equal chance of becoming his ſucceſſor. Experiments of this deſcription are ſometimes made. Since the beginning of the preſent century, ſix private ſoldiers entered into a conſpiracy to kill a dey of one of the ſtates of Barbary. They gave him a mortal wound in his palace, and in the midſt of a croud of people. He expired, exclaiming, "Has nobody the courage to kill a villain?" One of the conſpirators, the intended ſucceſſor, inſtantly aſcended the vacant throne, and brandiſhing his naked ſcymitar, declared *that he would do juſtice to all!* His five aſſociates went about the hall to inforce the title of their new maſter; and none preſent ſeemed to give themſelves any

disturbance about what had happened. He kept his situation unmolested, for about ten minutes, till an old veteran unobserved took aim with a musket or blunderbuss, and shot him dead. Upon this, the five others were immediately dispatched by the persons present. But what shewed the nature of the government in its proper light was the observation of the new dey. He said, that if the usurper could have held his place for twenty minutes longer, he would have obtained the throne.

The people of Algiers in general speak a compound of Arabic, Moresco, and the remains of the ancient Phœnician languages. The natives of all denominations, for the most part, understand the *Lingua Franca*. This is a kind of dialect, which, without being the proper language of any country on the coast of the Mediterranean sea, has a kind of universal currency all over that quarter of the world, as the channel of information for people, who cannot understand each other through any medium but itself. The public business of the nation is transacted in the Turkish tongue, in which also the records are kept. It is curious, that in conversation, a Turk transposes his nouns and verbs, in the same way that the Greek and Latin writers have done. Some of our modern critics have been woefully perplexed in attempting to explain this practice, which they seem to consider as peculiar to those two ancient languages. Had they been acquainted with the circumstance just now mentioned, they might readily have solved some of their doubts by a voyage to Constantinople.

In Algiers, both men and women spend a great part of their time in indolence; the men, in drinking coffee and smoaking; and the women, in dressing, bathing, visiting the tombs of their relations, and lauutering in their gardens. The Algerines by their law may have four wives, but they usually content themselves with two or three at the most. The husband seldom sees his wife before marriage, but accepts her upon the description of a female confident. When the match is agreed upon, the bridegroom sends a present of fruits and sweetmeats to the bride, and entertains her relations with a feast and a musical entertainment.

The militia who elect the dey are either Turks or renegado Christians. Their number has been variously stated by different authors from six thousand five hundred to twelve thousand. The dey pays no other revenue to the grand seignior, than that of a certain number of handsome youths, and some other annual presents. His income is more or less in proportion to his opportunities of plundering his neighbours or his subjects. Dr. Shaw says, that the taxes of the whole kingdom produce

yearly to the dey but about three hundred thouſand dollars. He conjectures that the eighth ſhare of the prizes, the property of perſons who die without children, and to whom the dey falls heir, with the preſents from foreign nations, and his private acts of robbery at home, extend to an equal ſum. It is eaſy to ſee that this calculation muſt be extremely queſtionable. The tyrant himſelf can hardly be ſuppoſed capable to give a diſtinct eſtimate.

The Mufti, the Cadi, and the grand Marabout, are the principal eccleſiaſtics. The firſt is the high prieſt of their religion; the ſecond, the ſupreme judge in eccleſiaſtical cauſes, and in ſuch civil matters as the civil power does not interpoſe in. The third is the chief of an order of ſaints or hermits. Theſe three perſons are diſtinguiſhed by the largeneſs of their turbans. They ſit in the divan a little below the dey, on his right hand. The divan itſelf conſiſts of about two thouſand Turkiſh officers and ſoldiers.

The common puniſhment at Algiers, for offences not capital, is the baſtinado; for thoſe, which are ſo, the bow-ſtring, which two people pull different ways with all their ſtrength, ſo that the criminal is inſtantly diſpatched. The Chriſtian ſlaves are liable to a variety of puniſhments. They are ſometimes burned, or rather roaſted alive. At other times, they are impaled. This is done, by placing the offender on the end of a ſharp ſtake, which is thruſt up his poſteriors cloſe by the back-bone, till it appears above his ſhoulders. Slaves are ſometimes caſt over the walls of a town upon iron hooks. Theſe catch by the jaws, by the ribs, or ſome other part of the body; and the ſufferers have been known to hang thus for ſeveral days, alive, and in the moſt exquiſite torture. Crucifixion, by nailing the hands and feet to walls, is likewiſe practiſed.

A Moor convicted of houſe-breaking, hath his right hand cut off and faſtened about his neck. He is then led through the city on an aſs, with his face towards its tail. Perſons of diſtinction, for crimes againſt the ſtate, are placed between two boards, and ſawed aſunder. Women, detected in adultery, are fixed by their necks to a pole, and held under water till they are ſuffocated.

When an Algerine pirate takes a prize, he examines into the quality and circumſtances of the priſoners. If he diſbelieves the account that they give of themſelves, they are baſtinadoed, till he has met with an agreeable anſwer. Having obtained what information he is able, he brings them on ſhore, after having ſtripped them almoſt naked. He carries them directly to the palace of the dey, where the European

conſuls aſſemble, to ſee if any of the priſoners belong to their reſpective nations, who are at peace with Algiers. In that caſe, they reclaim them, provided that they were only paſſengers; but if they have ſerved on board of the ſhips of any people at war with "the mighty and invincible militia," they cannot be diſcharged without payment of the full ranſom.

Matters are thus ſettled between the dey and the conſuls, what part of the priſoners are to be ſet at liberty, and what part are to be conſidered as ſlaves. The dey has next his choice of every eighth ſlave. He generally chuſes the maſters, ſurgeons, carpenters, and moſt uſeful hands belonging to the ſeveral prizes. Beſides his eighth, he lays claim to all priſoners of quality, for whom a ſuperior ranſom is to be expected. The reſt are left to the corſair and his owners. They are carried to the ſlave market; the crier proclaims their rank, profeſſion, and circumſtances, and the price ſet upon each of them. They are then led to the court before the palace of the dey, and there ſold to the beſt bidder. If any ſum is offered beyond the price firſt ſet upon them, it belongs to the government. The captors and owners have only that which was originally ſet upon the ſlaves. For this practice of buying and ſelling ſlaves, we are not entitled to charge the Algerines with any excluſive degree of barbarity. The Chriſtians of Europe and America carry on this commerce an hundred times more extenſively than the Algerines. It has received a recent ſanction from the immaculate *Divan* of Britain. Nobody ſeems even to be ſurpriſed by a diabolical kind of advertiſements, which, for ſome months paſt, have frequently adorned the newſpapers of Philadelphia. The French fugitives from the Weſt-Indies have brought with them a croud of ſlaves. Theſe moſt injured people ſometimes run off, and their maſter advertiſes a reward for apprehending them. At the ſame time, we are commonly informed, that his ſacred name is marked in capitals, on their breaſts; or in plainer terms, it is ſtamped on that part of the body with a red hot iron. Before therefore we reprobate the ferocity of the Algerines, we ſhould enquire whether it is not poſſible to find, in ſome other regions of the globe, a ſyſtematic brutality ſtill more diſgraceful?

CHAPTER III.

Origin of the preſent government of Algiers. Expedition of Charles V.

ALGIERS had undergone a variety of revolutions in its form of government, previous to the beginning of the

ſixteenth century, which it is not within the plan of this ſketch to deſcribe. But about that time a ſudden revolution happened, which, by rendering the ſtates of Barbary formidable to the Europeans, hath made their hiſtory worthy of more attention. Horuc and Hayradin, the ſons of a potter in the iſle of Leſbos, prompted by a reſtleſs and enterpriſing ſpirit, forſook their father's profeſſion, ran to ſea, and joined a crew of pirates. They ſoon diſtinguiſhed themſelves by their valour and activity, and becoming maſters of a ſmall brigantine, ſupported their infamous trade with ſuch conduct and ſucceſs, that they aſſembled a fleet of twelve galleys, beſides many veſſels of ſmaller force. Of this fleet, Horuc, the elder brother, called Barbaroſſa from the red colour of his beard, was admiral, and Hayradin ſecond in command. Their names ſoon became terrible from the Straits of the Dardanelles to thoſe of Gibraltar. Together with their power their ambitious views extended, and while acting as corſairs, they aſſumed the ideas, and acquired the talents of conquerors. They often carried the prizes, which they took on the coaſt of Spain and Italy, into the ports of Barbary. The convenient ſituation of theſe harbours, lying ſo near the greateſt commerical ſtates at that time in Chriſtendom, made the brothers wiſh for an eſtabliſhment in that country. An opportunity of accompliſhing this project, preſented itſelf, and they did not ſuffer it to paſs unimproved. Eutemi, king of Algiers, having attempted ſeveral times, without ſucceſs, to take a fort which the Spaniſh governors of Oran had built not far from his capital, applied to Barbaroſſa. The corſair, leaving his brother Hayradin with the fleet, marched at the head of five thouſand men to Algiers. Such a force gave him the command of the town. He ſecretly murdered the monarch whom he had come to aſſiſt, and proclaimed himſelf king in his ſtead. The authority which he had uſurped, he eſtabliſhed by arts ſuited to the genius of the people whom he had to govern; by liberality without bounds to thoſe who favoured his promotion, and by cruelty no leſs unbounded to all whom he had any reaſon to miſtruſt. He continued to infeſt the coaſt of Spain and Italy with fleets which reſembled the armaments of a great monarch, rather than the ſquadrons of a pirate. Their frequent and cruel devaſtations obliged Charles V. about the beginning of his reign, to furniſh the Marquis de Comares, governor of Oran, with troops ſufficient to attack him. That officer executed the commiſſion with ſuch ſpirit, that Barbaroſſa's forces being vanquiſhed in ſeveral encounters, he himſelf was ſhut up in Tremeſen, and in attempting to make his eſcape was fortunately ſlain.

His brother Hayradin, known likewiſe by the name of Barbaroſſa, aſſumed the ſceptre of Algiers. He carried on his naval robberies with great vigour, and extended his conqueſts on the continent of Africa. But perceiving that the Moors and Arabs ſubmitted to his government with the utmoſt reluctance, and being afraid that his continual depredations would, one day, draw upon him the arms of the Chriſtians, he put his dominions under the protection of the grand ſeignior, and received from him a body of Turkiſh ſoldiers ſufficient for his ſecurity againſt his domeſtic as well as foreign enemies. At laſt, the infamy, or, as Dr. Robertſon calls it, the *fame* of his exploits daily increaſing, Solyman offered him the command of the Turkiſh fleet; and Hayradin on the other hand, juſtly dreading the conſequences of the tyranny of his officers over the Algerines, ſought the protection of the grand ſeignior. This was readily granted, and himſelf appointed baſhaw or viceroy of Algiers; by which means he received ſuch conſiderable reinforcements, that the unhappy Algerines durſt not make the leaſt complaint; and ſuch numbers of Turks reſorted to him, that he was not only capable of keeping the Moors and Arabs in ſubjection at home, but of annoying the Chriſtians at ſea.

Hayradin ſet about building a ſtrong mole for the ſafety of his ſhips. In this he employed thirty thouſand Chriſtian ſlaves, whom he obliged to work, without intermiſſion, for three years, in which time the work was completed. Hayradin ſoon became dreaded not only by the Arabs and Moors, but alſo by the maritime Chriſtian powers, eſpecially the Spaniards. The viceroy failed not to acquaint the grand ſeignior with his ſucceſs, and obtained from him a freſh ſupply of money, by which he was enabled to build ſtrong forts, and to erect batteries on all places that might favour the landing of an enemy. All theſe have ſince received greater improvements from time to time, as often as there was occaſion for them.

In the mean time the ſultan, either out of a ſenſe of the great ſervices of Hayradin, or perhaps out of jealouſy leſt he ſhould make himſelf independent, raiſed him to the dignity of baſhaw of the empire, and appointed Haſſan-Aga, a Sardinian renegado, to ſucceed him as baſhaw of Algiers. Haſſan had no ſooner taken poſſeſſion of his new government, than he began to purſue his ravages on the Spaniſh coaſt with greater fury than ever; extending them to the eccleſiaſtical ſtate, and other parts of Italy. Pope Paul III. alarmed at this proceeding, exhorted the emperor Charles V. to ſend a powerful fleet to ſuppreſs thoſe frequent piracies: and, that nothing might be wanting to render the enterprize ſucceſsful, a bull was publiſhed by his holineſs, wherein a plenary abſolution of ſins, and the crown of

martyrdom, were promiſed to all thoſe who either fell in battle or were made ſlaves. The emperor, on his part, needed no incitement, and therefore ſet ſail at the head of a powerful fleet, conſiſting of an hundred and twenty ſhips and twenty gallies, having on board thirty thouſand troops, with an immenſe quantity of arms and ammunition. In this expedition, many young nobility and gentlemen attended as volunteers, and among theſe many knights of Malta, ſo remarkable for their valour againſt the enemies of Chriſtianity. Even ladies of birth and character attended Charles, and the wives and daughters of the officers and ſoldiers followed him with a deſign to ſettle in Barbary, after the conqueſt was finiſhed.

By this prodigious armament, the Algerines were thrown into the utmoſt conſternation. The city was ſurrounded only by a wall with ſcarce any out-works. The garriſon conſiſted of eight hundred Turks and ſix thouſand Moors, without fire-arms, and poorly diſciplined and accoutred; the reſt of their forces being diſperſed in the other provinces of the kingdom, to levy the uſual tribute on the Arabs and Moors. The Spaniards landed without oppoſition, and immediately built a fort, under the cannon of which they encamped, and diverted the courſe of a ſpring which ſupplied the city with water. Being now reduced to the utmoſt diſtreſs, Haſſan received a ſummons to ſurrender at diſcretion, on pain of being put to the ſword with all his garriſon. The herald was ordered to extol the vaſt power of the emperor both by ſea and land, and to exhort him to return to the Chriſtian religion. But to this Haſſan only replied, that he muſt be a madman, who would pretend to adviſe an enemy, and that the perſon adviſed would act ſtill more madly who would take counſel of ſuch an adviſer. He was, however, on the point of ſurrendering the city, when intelligence was brought him that the forces belonging to the weſtern government were in full march towards the place; upon which it was reſolved to defend it to the utmoſt. Charles, in the mean time, reſolving upon a general aſſault, kept a conſtant firing on the town; which, from the weak defence made by the garriſon, he looked upon as already in his hands. But while the divan were deliberating on the moſt proper means of obtaining an honourable capitulation, a mad prophet, attended by a multitude of people, entered the aſſembly, and foretold the deſtruction of the Spaniards before the end of the moon, exhorting the inhabitants to hold out till that time. This prediction was ſoon accompliſhed in a very ſurpriſing and unexpected manner; for, on the 28th of October 1541, a dreadful ſtorm of wind, rain, and hail, aroſe from the north, accompanied with violent ſhocks of earthquakes,

and a diſmal and univerſal darkneſs both by ſea and land; ſo that the ſun, moon, and elements, ſeemed to combine together for the deſtruction of the Spaniards. In that one night, ſome ſay in leſs than half an hour, eighty-ſix ſhips and fifteen gallies were deſtroyed, with all their crews and military ſtores; by which the army on ſhore was deprived of all means of ſubſiſtence. Their camp alſo, which ſpread itſelf along the plain under their fort, was laid quite under water by the torrents which deſcended from the neighbouring hills. Many of the troops, by trying to remove into ſome better ſituation, were cut to pieces by the Moors and Arabs; while ſeveral gallies, and other veſſels, endeavouring to gain ſome neighbouring creeks along the coaſt, were immediately plundered, and their crews maſſacred by the inhabitants.

Next morning, Charles beheld the ſea covered with the fragments of ſhips, and the bodies of men, horſes, and other creatures, ſwimming on the waves; at which he was ſo diſheartened, that abandoning his tents, artillery, and all his heavy baggage, to the enemy, he marched at the head of his army, in no ſmall diſorder, towards Cape Mallabux, in order to reimbark in thoſe veſſels, which had out-weathered the ſtorm. But Haſſan, who had watched his motions, allowed him juſt time to get to the ſhore, when he ſallied out, and attacked the Spaniards in the midſt of their hurry to get into their ſhips. He killed great numbers, and brought away a ſtill greater number of captives; after which he returned in triumph to Algiers.

Soon after this, the prophet Yuſef, who had foretold the deſtruction of the Spaniards, was declared the deliverer of his country, and had a conſiderable gratuity decreed him, with the liberty of exerciſing his prophetic function unmoleſted. It was not long, however, before the Marabouts, and ſome interpreters of the law, made a ſtrong oppoſition againſt him, remonſtrating to the baſhaw, how ridiculous and ſcandalous it was to their nation, to aſcribe its deliverance to a poor fortune-teller, which had been obtained by the fervent prayers of an eminent ſaint of their own profeſſion. But though the baſhaw and his divan ſeemed out of policy, to give into this laſt notion, yet the impreſſion, which the prediction of Yuſef and its accompliſhment had made upon the minds of the common people, proved too ſtrong to be eradicated; and the ſpirit of divination and conjuring has ſince got into ſuch credit among them, that not only their great ſtateſmen, but their prieſts, marabouts, and ſantoons, have applied themſelves to that ſtudy, and dignified it with the name of Mahomet's Revelations.

The Spaniards had ſcarce reached their ſhips, when they were attacked by a freſh ſtorm, in which ſeveral more of them periſhed. A veſſel in particular, containing ſeven hundred ſoldiers, beſides ſailors, ſunk in the ſight of Charles, without a poſſibility of ſaving a ſingle man. At length with much labour, they reached the port of Bujeyah. They ſtayed no longer here than till the ſixteenth of November, when they ſet ſail for Carthagena, and reached it on the twenty-fifth of the ſame month. In this unfortunate expedition upwards of one hundred and twenty ſhips and gallies were loſt, with above three hundred colonels and other officers, and eight thouſand ſoldiers and marines, beſides thoſe deſtroyed by the enemy on their reimbarkation, or drowned in the laſt ſtorm. The number of priſoners was ſo great, that the Algerines ſold ſome of them, by way of contempt, for an onion per head.

From this time, the Spaniards were never able to annoy the Algerines, in any conſiderable degree. In 1555, they loſt the city of Bujeyah, which was taken by Salab Bais, ſucceſſor to Haſſan. This commander, in 1556, ſet out upon a new expedition, ſuſpected to be againſt Oran; but he was ſcarcely got four leagues from Algiers, when the plague, which at that time raged violently in the city, broke out in his groin, and luckily carried him off in twenty-four hours.

Immediately after his death, the Algerine ſoldiery choſe a Corſican renegado, Haſſan Corſo, in his room, till they ſhould receive further orders from the porte. He did not accept of the baſhawſhip without a good deal of difficulty, but immediately proſecuted the intended expedition againſt Oran, diſpatching a meſſenger to acquaint the porte with what had happened. The army had hardly begun their hoſtilities againſt the place, when orders came from the porte, expreſsly forbidding Haſſan Corſo to begin the ſiege, or, if he had begun it, enjoining him to raiſe it immediately, which he accordingly did.

Corſo had enjoyed his dignity for four months, when Tekelli, a new baſhaw, arrived, as his ſucceſſor from Conſtantinople. The Algerines reſolved not to admit him; but by the treachery of the Levantine ſoldiers, he at laſt entered. Corſo was thown over a wall, in which a number of iron hooks were fixed. One of theſe catching the ribs of his ſide, he hung three days in horrid agony before he expired. "We "meet with events in the annals of mankind, that make us "doubt the truth of the moſt authentic hiſtory. We cannot "believe that ſuch actions have ever been committed by the "inhabitants of this globe, and by creatures of the ſame ſpe-

" cies with ourſelves. We are tempted to think we are peruſ-
" ing the records of hell."*

Tekelli was aſſaſſinated under the dome of a ſaint, by Yuſef Calabres, the favourite renegado of Haſſan Corſo. The murderer was choſen baſhaw, but died of the plague, ſix days after his election.

Yuſef was ſucceeded by Haſſan the ſon of Hayradin Barbaroſſa. Not long after, the Spaniards undertook an expedition againſt Moſtagan under the command of the count d'Alcandela, but were utterly defeated, the commander himſelf killed, and twelve thouſand men taken priſoners. Haſſan having diſobliged his ſubjects, they ſent him in irons to Conſtantinople, while two Turkiſh officers ſupplied his place. Haſſan cleared himſelf; but Achmet, a new baſhaw, was appointed. Upon his arrival at Algiers, he ſent the two deputy baſhaws to Conſtantinople, where their heads were ſtruck off. Achmet, in four months, died; and Haſſan was ſent a third time viceroy to Algiers.

He ſoon engaged in the ſiege of Marſalquiver, poſſeſſed by the Spaniards, and ſituated near the city of Oran. The Turkiſh ſtandards were ſeveral times planted on the walls, and as often diſlodged; but in the end Haſſan was obliged to raiſe the ſiege.

In 1567, Haſſan was again recalled to Conſtantinople. His ſucceſſor, Mahomet, incorporated the Janiſaries and Levantine Turks together. He thus put an end to their diſſentions, and laid the foundation of the Algerine independency on the porte. He likewiſe added ſome conſiderable fortifications to the city and caſtle, which he deſigned to render impregnable. At this time, one John Gaſcon, a bold Spaniſh adventurer, formed a deſign of ſurpriſing the whole piratic navy in the bay, and ſetting them on fire in the night time. He had the permiſſion of Philip II. and was furniſhed by him with veſſels, mariners, and fire-works, for the execution of his plan. He ſet ſail for Algiers in the beginning of October, when moſt, if not all the ſhips lay at anchor there; and advanced near enough, unſuſpected, to view them. He came accordingly, unperceived by any, to the very mole gate, and diſpatched his men with their fire-works; but theſe were ſo ill mixed, that they could not be kindled. Gaſcon finding himſelf diſcovered, and in the utmoſt danger, ſailed away with all poſſible haſte; but he was purſued, overtaken, and brought back a priſoner. Mahomet immediately cauſed a gibbet to be erected on the ſpot where Gaſcon had landed, and hung

* View of Society and Manners in Italy, by Dr. Moore. Letter 16th.

him by the feet upon a hook, with his royal commiſſion tied to his toes. He had not been long ſuſpended, when the captain who made him priſoner, and a number of other corſairs, interceded ſo ſtrongly in his behalf, that he was taken down, and put under the care of ſome Chriſtian ſurgeons; but two days after, ſome Moors having reported as the common talk and belief in Spain, that the Algerines durſt not hurt a hair of Gaſcon's head, he was hoiſted up by a pulley to the top of the execution wall, and thrown down again. In his fall, a hook catched him by the belly, and gave him a wound, of which he inſtantly expired.

Mahomet was ſucceeded by Ochali, a renegado, who reduced the kingdom of Tunis. It remained ſubject to the viceroy of Algiers only till the year 1586, when a baſhaw of Tunis was appointed by the Sultan.

Algiers continued to be governed, till the beginning of the ſeventeenth century, by Turkiſh viceroys or baſhaws. At laſt, the Turkiſh Janiſaries and militia becoming powerful enough to ſuppreſs the tyrannic ſway of thoſe baſhaws, they ſent a deputation of ſome of their chief members to Conſtantinople to complain of their rapacity. They repreſented to the miniſtry, how much more honourable it would be for the grand ſeignior to permit them to chuſe their own dey, or governor, from among themſelves, whoſe intereſt it would be to ſee that the revenue of the country was rightly applied in keeping up its forces complete, and in ſupplying all other exigencies of the ſtate, without any farther charge or trouble to the porte, than that of allowing them its protection. Algiers was to be wholly left under the direction of the dey and his divan. The power of the Turkiſh baſhaw was to be reduced to a ſhadow.

Theſe propoſals were accepted by the porte. The divan elected a dey from among themſelves. They compiled a new ſet of laws, and made ſeveral regulations for the better ſupport and maintenance of this new form of government. The ſubſequent altercations that frequently happened between the baſhaws and deys, the one endeavouring to recover their former power, and the other to curtail it, cauſed ſuch frequent complaints and diſcontents at the Ottoman court, as made them ſometimes repent of their compliance.

In the year 1601, the Spaniards made another attempt upon Algiers. Their fleet was driven back by contrary winds, ſo that they came off without loſs. In 1609, the Moors being expelled from Spain, flocked in great numbers to Algiers; and as many of them were very able ſailors, they undoubtedly contributed to make the Algerine fleet ſo formidable as it became ſoon after. In 1616, their fleet conſiſted of forty ſhips between two hundred and four hundred tons burthen, and

their admiral was five hundred tons. It was divided into two ſquadrons, one of eighteen ſail, ſtationed before the port of Malaga; and the other at the Cape of Santa Maria, between Liſbon and Seville; both of which attacked Chriſtian ſhips, both Engliſh and French, with whom they pretended to be in friendſhip, as well as Spaniards, and Portugueſe, with whom they were at war.

The Algerines were now become formidable to the European powers. The Spaniards, who were moſt in danger, ſolicited the aſſiſtance of England, the Pope, and other ſtates. The French, however, were the firſt who dared to ſhew their reſentment at the perfidious behaviour of theſe miſcreants; and in 1617, M. Beaulieu was ſent againſt them with a fleet of fifty men of war. He defeated their fleet, and took two of their veſſels. Their admiral ſunk his own ſhip and crew, rather than fall into the hands of the enemy.

In 1620, a ſquadron of Engliſh men of war was ſent againſt Algiers, but did nothing. The Algerines, becoming more inſolent, openly defied all the European powers, the Dutch only excepted, to whom, in 1625, they ſent a propoſal, that in caſe they would fit out twenty ſail of ſhips in the following year, upon any ſervice againſt the Spaniards, the corſairs would join them with ſixty ſail.

Next year, the Cologlies, or children of ſuch Turks as had been permitted to marry at Algiers, who were inrolled in the militia, ſeized on the citadel, and had well nigh made themſelves maſters of the city. They were attacked by the Turks and renegadoes, who defeated them with terrible ſlaughter. Numbers were executed, and their heads thrown in heaps on the city walls.

In 1623, the Algerines and other ſtates of Barbary, threw off their dependence on the porte. Sultan Amurath IV. had been obliged to make a truce for twenty-five years, with the emperor Ferdinand II. As this put a ſtop to the piratical trade of the Algerines, they proceeded as above mentioned; and reſolved, that whoever deſired to be at peace with them, muſt, ſeparately, apply to their own government. They began to make prizes of ſeveral merchant ſhips belonging to the powers at peace with the porte. They ſeized a Dutch ſhip and poleacre at Scanderoon; they even ventured on ſhore, and finding the town abandoned by the Turkiſh aga and inhabitants, they plundered all the magazines and warehouſes, and ſet them on fire. About this time, Louis XIII. undertook to build a fort on their coaſts, inſtead of one formerly built by the Marſilians, and which had been demoliſhed. This, after ſome difficulty, he accompliſhed; and it was

called the Baſtion of France; but the ſituation being found inconvenient, the French purchaſed the port of La Calle, and obtained liberty to trade with the Arabians and Moors. The Ottoman court, in the mean time, was ſo much embarraſſed with a Perſian war, that there was no leiſure to check the Algerines piracies. This gave an opportunity to the vizir and other courtiers to compound matters with the Algerines, and to get a ſhare of the prizes, which were very conſiderable. For the ſake of form a ſevere reprimand, accompanied with threats, was ſent them. They replied, that "they deſerved "to be indulged in theſe depredations, as they were the only "bulwark againſt the Chriſtian powers, and in particular, "againſt the Spaniards, the ſworn enemies of the Moſlem "name." They added, that "if they ſhould pay a punctilious regard to all who could purchaſe liberty to trade with "the Ottoman empire, they would have nothing to do but "ſet fire to their ſhipping, and turn camel-drivers."

In the year 1635, four brothers of a family in France, entered into an undertaking ſo deſperate, that perhaps the annals of knight-errantry can ſcarcely furniſh its equal. This was no leſs than to retort the piracies of the Algerines, upon themſelves; and as they indiſcriminately took the ſhips of all nations, ſo were theſe heroes indiſcriminately to take the ſhips belonging to Algiers; and this with a ſmall frigate of ten guns! An hundred volunteers embarked; a Malteſe commiſſion was obtained, with an able maſter, and thirty mariners. On their firſt ſetting out, they took, on the Spaniſh coaſt, a ſhip laden with wine. Three days after, they engaged two large Algerine corſairs, one of twenty and the other of twenty-four guns. The French made ſo deſperate a reſiſtance, that the pirates were not able to take them, till five other corſairs came up. The French veſſel, being almoſt torn to pieces, was then boarded and taken. In 1642, the brothers redeemed themſelves, at the price of ſix thouſand dollars.

In 1637, the Algerines infeſted the Britiſh channel; and, according to Mrs. Macauley, * had made ſuch a vaſt number of captures, as to have at one time, between four and five thouſand ſubjects of England priſoners.

The Algerines proſecuted their piracies with impunity, to the terror and diſgrace of Chriſtendom, till the year 1652; when a French fleet being accidentally driven to Algiers, the admiral took it into his head to demand a releaſe of all the captives of his nation without exception. This being refuſed, the Frenchman without ceremony carried off the Turkiſh vice-

* Hiſtory of England, vol. II. chap. 4.

roy, and his cadi or judge, who were juſt arrived from the porte, with all their equipage and retinue. The Algerines, by way of repriſal, ſurpriſed the Baſtion of France already mentioned, and carried off the inhabitants to the number of ſix hundred, with all their effects. Upon this, the admiral ſent them word, that he would pay them another viſit, next year, with his whole fleet.

The Algerines fitted out a fleet of ſixteen galleys and galliots, under the command of Hali Pinchinin. The chief deſign of this armament was againſt the treaſure of Loretto; which they were prevented by contrary winds from obtaining. Hereupon they made a deſcent on Puglia in the kingdom of Naples; where they ravaged the whole territory of Necotra. They carried off a vaſt number of captives. Thence ſteering towards Dalmatia, they ſcoured the Adriatic, and loaded themſelves with immenſe plunder.

The Venetians, alarmed at ſuch ravages, equipped a fleet of twenty-eight ſail, under the command of admiral Capello, with expreſs orders to burn, ſink, or take, all the Barbary corſairs which he met with, either on the open ſeas, or even in the Ottoman harbours, agreeable to a late treaty of peace with the porte. On the other hand, the captain baſhaw, who had been ſent out with a Turkiſh fleet to chaſe the Florentine and Malteſe cruiſers from the Archipelago, learning that the Algerine ſquadron was ſo near, ſent expreſs orders to the admiral to come to his aſſiſtance. Pinchinin readily agreed; but he was overtaken by Capello, from whom he retired to Valona, a ſea port belonging to the grand ſeignior, whither the Venetian admiral purſued him; but the Turkiſh governor refuſing to turn out the pirates, according to the articles of the peace between the Ottoman court and Venice, Capello was obliged to content himſelf with watching them for ſome time. Pinchinin ſoon ventured out, an engagement immediately enſued, and the Algerines were defeated. Five of their veſſels were diſabled; one thouſand five hundred men, Turks, and Chriſtian ſlaves, were killed; beſides one thouſand ſix hundred galley ſlaves who regained their liberty. Pinchinin, after this defeat, returned to Valona, where he was again watched by Capello, but the latter had not lain long at his old anchorage, before he received a letter from the ſenate, deſiring him to make no farther attempt on the pirates at that time, for fear of a rupture with the porte. Capello was forced to ſubmit; but reſolving to take ſuch a leave of the Algerines as he thought they deſerved, obſerved how they had reared their tents, and drawn their booty and equipage along the ſhore. He then kept firing among their tents,

while ſome well manned galliots and brigantines were diſpatched to attack their ſhipping. Sixteen gallies, with all their cannon, and ſtores, were towed out. In this laſt engagement, a ball from one of the Venetian gallies, ſtruck a Turkiſh moſque, and hence, the whole action was conſidered as an inſult to the grand ſeignior. To conceal this, Capello was ordered to ſink all the Algerine ſhips that he had taken, except the admiral; which was to be conducted to Venice, and laid up as a trophy. Capello received a ſevere reprimand, and the Venetians were obliged to buy, with five hundred thouſand ducats, a peace from the porte.

In the mean time, the news of this defeat and loſs filled Algiers with rage and confuſion. The city was on the point of an inſurrection, when the baſhaw publiſhed a proclamation, forbidding, not only complaints and outcries, under the ſevereſt penalties, but all perſons whatever to take their thumbs from within their girdles, while they were deliberating on this ſubject. They applied to the porte for an order, that the Venetians ſettled in the Levant, ſhould make up their loſs. But with this the grand ſeignior refuſed to comply, and left them to repair their loſſes, and to build new ſhips in the beſt manner that they could. It was not long, however, before they had the ſatisfaction of ſeeing one of their captains land, with a freſh ſupply of ſix hundred ſlaves, whom he had brought from the coaſt of Iceland, whither he had been directed by a miſcreant native taken on board a Daniſh ſhip.

CHAPTER IV.

Pinchinin. His engagement with a Dutch ſhip. Bombardment and deſtruction of Algiers, by the French. Defeat of the Spaniards.

THE pirates did not long continue in their weak and defenceleſs ſtate; being able, at the end of two years, to appear at ſea with a fleet of ſixty-five ſail. The Admiral Pinchinin equipped four galliots at his own expence; with which, in conjunction with the Chiayah or ſecretary of the baſhaw of Tripoli, he made a ſecond excurſion. This ſmall ſquadron, conſiſting of five galleys and two brigantines, fell in with an Engliſh ſhip of forty guns; which, however, Pinchinin's captains refuſed to engage, but being afterwards reproached by him for their cowardice, they ſwore to attack the next Chriſtian ſhip that came in their way. This happened to be a Dutch merchantman, of twenty-eight guns and forty men, deeply laden, and diſabled by a calm from uſing her ſails.

Pinchinin immediately ſummoned her to ſurrender; but receiving an ironical anſwer, drew up his ſquadron in form of an half moon, that they might pour their ſhot all at once into their adverſary. This, however, the Dutchman avoided, by means of a breeze of wind which fortunately ſprung up and enabled him to turn his ſhip; by which the galleys ran foul of each other. Upon this Pinchinin ran his own galley along ſide the merchantman, the upper deck of which ſeventy Algerines immediately took poſſeſſion of, ſome of them cutting the rigging, others plying the hatches with hand-grenadoes; but the Dutch having ſecured themſelves in their cloſe quarters, began to fire at the Algerines on board, from two pieces of cannon loaded with ſmall ſhot; by which they were all ſoon killed or forced to ſubmit. Pinchinin in the mean time made ſeveral unſucceſsful attempts to relieve his men, as well as to ſurround the Dutch with his other gallies; but their ſhip lay ſo deep in the water, that every ſhot did terrible execution among the pirates; ſo that they were obliged to remove farther off. At laſt the Dutch captain, having ordered his guns to be loaded with cartouches, gave them a parting volley, which killed, as it is ſaid, two hundred of them, and ſent the reſt back to Algiers in a diſmal condition.

But though Pinchinin thus returned in diſgrace, the reſt of the fleet quickly came back with vaſt numbers of ſlaves, and an immenſe quantity of rich ſpoils; in ſo much that the Engliſh, French, and Dutch, were obliged to cringe to the Algerines, who ſometimes condeſcended to be at peace with them, but ſwore eternal war againſt Spain, Portugal, and Italy, whom they conſidered as the greateſt enemies to the Mahometan name. At laſt Lewis the fourteenth, provoked by the grievous outrages committed by the Algerines on the coaſts of Provence and Languedoc, ordered, in 1681, a conſiderable fleet to be fitted out againſt them, under the Marquis du Queſne, vice admiral of France. His firſt expedition was againſt a number of Tripolitan corſairs; who had the good fortune to outnow him, and ſhelter themſelves in the iſland of Scio belonging to the Turks. This did not prevent him from purſuing them thither, and making ſuch a terrible fire upon them, as deſtroyed fourteen of their veſſels, beſides battering the walls of the caſtle.

This ſeverity ſeemed only to be deſigned as a check to the piracies of the Algerines; but, finding that they ſtill continued their outrages on the French coaſt, Du Queſne ſailed in Auguſt, 1682, to Algiers, cannonading and bombarding it ſo furiouſly, that, in a very ſhort time, the whole town was in flames. The great moſque was battered down,

and moſt of the houſes laid in ruins, ſo that the inhabitants were on the point of abandoning the place; when, on a ſudden the wind turned about, and obliged Du Queſne to return to Toulon. The Algerines immediately made repriſals, by ſending a number of galleys and galliots to the coaſts of Provence, where they committed the moſt dreadful ravages, and brought away a vaſt number of captives; upon which a new armament was ordered to be got ready at Toulon and Marſeilles, againſt them the next year; and the Algerines, having received early notice, put themſelves into as good a ſtate of defence as the time would allow.

In May, 1683, Du Queſne with his ſquadron caſt anchor before Algiers; where, being joined by the marquis d'Affranville, at the head of five ſtrong veſſels, it was reſolved to bombard the town next day, when accordingly, one hundred bombs were thrown into it which did terrible execution, while the beſieged made ſome hundred diſcharges of their cannon againſt the aſſailants, without doing any conſiderable damage. The following night, bombs were again thrown into the city in ſuch numbers, that the dey's palace and other great edifices were almoſt deſtroyed; ſome of the batteries were diſmounted, and ſeveral veſſels ſunk in the port. The dey, and Turkiſh baſhaw, as well as the whole ſoldiery, alarmed at this dreadful havock, immediately ſued for peace. As a preliminary, the French inſiſted on the ſurrender of all Chriſtian captives who had been taken fighting under their flag, which being granted, one hundred and forty-two perſons were directly delivered up, with a promiſe of ſending on board the remainder, as ſoon as they could be got from the different parts of the country. Accordingly Du Queſne ſent his commiſſary-general and one of his engineers into the town; but with expreſs orders to inſiſt upon the delivery of all the French captives without exception, together with the effects that had been taken from the French; and that Mezomorto their then admiral, and Hali Rais one of their captains, ſhould be given as hoſtages.

This laſt demand having embarraſſed the dey, he aſſembled the divan, and acquainted them with it. Upon this Mezomorto fell into a violent paſſion, and told the aſſembly, that the cowardice of thoſe who ſat at the helm had occaſioned the ruin of Algiers; but, that for his part, he would never conſent to deliver up any thing that was taken from the French. He immediately acquainted the ſoldiery with what had paſſed; which ſo exaſperated them, that they murdered the dey that very night, and on the morrow choſe Mezomorto in his place. This was no ſooner done, than he cancelled all the articles of

peace which had been made, and hoſtilities were renewed with greater fury than ever.

The French admiral now kept pouring in ſuch volleys of bombs, that in leſs than three days, the greateſt part of the city was reduced to aſhes; and the fire burnt with ſuch fury, that the ſea was enlightened for more than two leagues round. Mezomorto, unmoved by all theſe diſaſters, and the vaſt numbers of the ſlain, whoſe blood ran in rivulets along the ſtreets; or rather, grown furious and deſperate, ſought only how to wreak his revenge on the enemy; and, not content with cauſing all the French in the city to be cruelly murdered, he ordered their conſul to be tied hand and foot, and faſtened alive to the mouth of a mortar, from which he was ſhot away againſt their navy. By this piece of inhumanity, Du Queſne was ſo exaſperated, that he did not leave Algiers till he had utterly deſtroyed all their fortifications, ſhipping, almoſt all the lower part, and above two thirds of the upper part of the city, which became little more than an heap of ruins.

The Algerines were now thoroughly convinced that they were not invincible; and, therefore, immediately ſent an embaſſy into France, begging in the moſt abject terms for peace; which Lewis very ſoon granted, to their inexpreſſible joy. They now began to pay ſome regard to other nations, and to be ſomewhat cautious how they wantonly provoked their diſpleaſure. The firſt bombardment by the French had ſo far humbled the Algerines, that they condeſcended to enter into a treaty with England; which was in 1686 renewed upon terms very advantageous to the latter. It is not to be ſuppoſed, however, that the natural perfidy of the Algerines would diſappear on a ſudden. Notwithſtanding this treaty, therefore, they loſt no opportunity of making prizes of Engliſh ſhips, when they could conveniently ſeize them. Upon ſome infringement of this kind, captain Beach, in 1695, drove aſhore and burned ſeven of their frigates which produced a renewal of the treaty five years after; but it was not until the taking of Gibraltar and Port Mahon, that Britain could have a ſufficient check upon them to enforce the obſervation of treaties; and theſe have ſince proved ſuch reſtraints upon Algiers, that they ſtill continue to pay a greater deference to the Engliſh than to any other European power.

In 1708, Oran, as has been already related, was taken by the Algerines from the Spaniards, and recovered by the latter in 1732. The Turkiſh baſhaw was in 1710, finally expelled.

Since the laſt ſiege of Oran the moſt remarkable event in the annals of Barbary is the attack of Algiers, by the Spaniards in the year 1775. With a conciſe account of that expedition, we ſhall cloſe this chapter of blood.

On the 23d of June 1775, a fleet of ſix ſhips of the line, twelve frigates and thirty-three other armed veſſels ſet ſail from Carthagena, in Spain, to attack Algiers. There was on board a body of troops amounting to twenty-four thouſand four hundred and forty-ſeven men, including infantry, cavalry, marines, and ſix hundred deſerters deſtined to ſerve as workmen. They were commanded by the count O'Reilly, a perſonal favourite of the late king of Spain. They had likewiſe for the land ſervice, an hundred and ſeventy-ſix pieces of artillery, mortars, and howitzers, with a ſuitable quantity of military ſtores. On the 30th of June, and 1ſt of July, they anchored in the bay of Algiers. They obſerved a large encampment, placed behind a battery, eaſt of the river Xarach, which runs on the eaſtward of the city. On the 2d of July, a council was held; and orders were given that the troops ſhould hold themſelves in readineſs to diſembark next morning, by day-break. But as the ſucceeding night was windy, and a ſwell had ſet in from the ſhore, theſe orders were countermanded. From this day, to the 6th, there were frequent councils, violent debates, and nothing done. A quarrel broke out between O'Reilly and the Marquis de Romana, a Spaniſh major-general, who was killed in the ſubſequent action. On the 6th, the principal officers were again aſſembled, to receive their ultimate inſtructions. The commander in chief warned the army, that it was the cuſtom of the Moors, to pretend a moſt violent attack, and on the ſmalleſt reſiſtance, to fly with precipitation, that they might draw the enemy into an ambuſcade. He cautioned the troops not to break their ranks, as nothing but the force of diſcipline could ſecure them againſt ſo active an enemy. He pointed out the very error which they ſoon after committed, and the ſnare into which they were betrayed. On landing, the army was directed to gain ſome heights, which were ſuppoſed requiſite to enſure ſucceſs againſt Algiers. In the afternoon of the 6th, ſome ſhips of war were ordered to fire againſt three batteries to the eaſtward of that city. This commiſſion was executed with ſo much laudable attention to the perſonal ſafety of the aſſailants, if ſuch we may term them, that their ſhot *did not reach the ſhore*, thoſe of one ſeventy-four gun ſhip excepted. At ſun ſet this formidable attack ceaſed.

On the 7th at day-break, between eight and nine thouſand men were put on board the boats for landing. They advanced, under the protection of ſome larger veſſels very near the coaſt. Not a Moor appeared to oppoſe them; and at ſeven o'clock in the morning, they *returned on board the tranſports*. Not a ſhot was fired on either ſide, during the whole day.

On the 8th, at day-break, the ſhips being ſtationed to batter the different forts to the right and left of the place of diſembarkation, the troops, to the number of about eight thouſand, were put on board the boats; which formed in ſix columns. The place of landing was a league and an half to the eaſtward of the city of Algiers. Eighty thouſand Moors, of whom two thirds were cavalry, came in ſight, but did not attempt to oppoſe the landing of the Spaniſh forces. It is ſaid, that the whole number of Africans collected on this occaſion, was not leſs than one hundred and fifty thouſand. The troops advanced into a cloſe country, which the Algerines had occupied in ſmall parties. The grenadiers and light infantry of the Spaniards were repulſed, and the whole body fell into confuſion. In a very ſhort time they fled, leaving behind them a great number of killed and wounded. The latter, a few excepted, were, in ſpite of their intreaties, left to the *mercy* of the conquerors. Part of a ſecond embarkation of troops added to the general confuſion. A third body had caſt up an entrenchment on the ſhore, for the protection of the army. The Africans attacked it, but were driven back with great ſlaughter on both ſides. The Spaniards, in their gazette, acknowledged the loſs of five hundred and twenty-one men killed, and two thouſand two hundred and ſeventy-nine wounded. It is ſaid, that the Algerines had between five and ſix thouſand men ſlain on the ſpot. The wounded Spaniards, who were left on the field of battle, were every one murdered by the enemy. The government of Algiers had offered ten zequins for the head of each Spaniard. Fifteen pieces of cannon, and three howitzers were left behind by theſe unfortunate invaders. The real amount of their loſs can hardly have been leſs than three thouſand lives, and was perhaps conſiderably greater. In the gazette of a court, we ſeldom expect an honeſt reckoning of this kind. If the writer of that of Madrid intended us to believe that two thouſand two hundred and ſeventy-nine of the wounded were brought off, the officer from whoſe journal this account is extracted, ſays that a much greater number were left behind, than were ſaved, which makes the ſtory worſe and worſe. On details of this kind, we cannot dwell with pleaſure. One circumſtance is evident, that the Spaniſh commanders did not underſtand their buſineſs.

CHAPTER V.

State of America as to Algiers. Conduct of Britain. Concluding Remarks.

IN the two laſt Chapters, we have ſeen the Algerines ſucceſſively ſet at defiance, ſeveral of the moſt formidable nations of Europe. When the United States of America had obtained their infant independence, it was naturally to be expected, that they alſo ſhould, in ſome degree, ſuffer, by the ravages of the corſairs. Various circumſtances pointed them out, as eligible objects of piratical rapine. They poſſeſſed an extenſive trade with Europe, which in the firſt place, preſented a ſplendid temptation to plunder. There was, on the part of the Algerines, a ſecond and irreſiſtible motive to hoſtilities. America did not ſupport, at her national expence, any maritime force whatever; and thirdly, had ſhe even eſtabliſhed an armed navy, this country lies at the diſtance of more than three thouſand miles, from the common range of the privateers of Barbary. Hence, to reduce them to ſubmiſſion, muſt always require a proportion of trouble and expence greatly ſuperior to the ſubſtantial magnitude of the object of attack; and this remoteneſs of our ſituation might be conſidered as an additional inducement to the regency of Algiers for interrupting our navigation. Of the number and ſtrength of the corſairs, it is impoſſible to give an accurate ſtatement. Their actual force, however, compared with that which the United States could eaſily fit out, is but trifling. To bring their whole ſhips of war, at once, to a regular engagement, never can be practicable, but ſhould it happen, it may without preſumption be ſuppoſed, that fifteen or twenty American forty gun frigates would ſend their navy to the bottom. When we reflect on the numerous and peculiar incitements which theſe Africans had, to commence depredations on the commerce of the United States, inſtead of being ſurpriſed at our having ſuffered ſo much, it rather becomes an object of wonder that we have ſuffered ſo little. The late alarming intelligence from Liſbon has excited univerſal attention from the public to that ſubject, which may be divided into two queſtions. Firſt, why, excepting two veſſels,* have not

* On the 25th of July, 1785, the ſchooner Maria, captain Stephens, belonging to Mr. Forſter, of Boſton, was taken off Cape St. Vincents, by an Algerine cruiſer; and five days afterwards, the ſhip Dolphin, captain O'Brien, belonging to Meſſrs. Irvines, of Philadelphia, was taken by another, fifty leagues weſtward of Liſbon. Theſe veſſels,

the ſhips of this country met with any interruption ſince the end of the war with Britain? Second, why has our trade now ſuffered ſo unexpected and ſevere a check?

In anſwer to the firſt query, it has happened, that ſince the independence of North-America, the Algerines have been conſtantly at war, with the Dutch, or the Portugueſe, or both at once; and as either of theſe nations is greatly ſuperior, in regular ſtrength at ſea, to the corſairs, they have, hitherto, for the ſecurity of their own commerce, watched the entrance of the Mediterranean ſo carefully, that the corſairs have been ſeldom able to get out of it. That they ſometimes did ſo, is unfortunately certain, from the fate of the two American veſſels above-mentioned; but, in general, they were ſhut up in the Mediterranean as in a priſon, without a poſſibility of extending their depredations on the Atlantic ocean. Into the former, American veſſels but ſometimes ventured, and when they did ſo, they derived ſecurity from forged or purchaſed Mediterranean paſſes. A Britiſh ſhip has for her protection a paſs, which is written on a large ſheet of parchment, and has, by way of ornament, ſome figures or daſhes drawn with a pen, or engraved on the margin. The Algerines cannot read Engliſh, and it would moſt likely coſt the captain of a corſair his head, were he to carry a Britiſh veſſel, by miſtake, as a prize into the harbour of Algiers. They have adopted a *ſagacious* contrivance to diſcover whether ſuch paſſes are genuine. They keep a ſtick marked with notches correſponding to the ſhape of thoſe figures, that are uniformly delineated on the margin of the parchment. When the paſs is produced, their meaſure is applied. In this way, it cannot be difficult for the moſt bungling artiſt, who has an original paſs before him, to deceive them, and, by this means, it is ſaid, upon reputable authority, that many veſſels have been preſerved. Beſides, even in the Mediterranean itſelf, the progreſs of the Algerines has been conſiderably cramped by the Portugueſe and Dutch ſhips of war, and both theſe nations, as well as the Spaniards, from a regard to their own intereſt, as well as from the common principles of juſtice and humanity, have been forward to extend their protection to the American flag.

In anſwer to the ſecond query, this protection has, at preſent been ſuſpended, becauſe a ceſſation of hoſtilities has taken

with their cargoes, and crews, twenty-one in number, were carried into Algiers. Of this number two have been ranſomed by their friends. The remainder now reduced by death to thirteen, are yet ſlaves. In the newſpapers about that time, two or three other ſhips are reported as captured, but upon enquiry, theſe two veſſels only appear to have been ſo.

place between Holland and Portugal on the one ſide, and the regency of Algiers on the other. Spain, at the ſame time, has been engaged in the general conſpiracy of the Domitians and Caligulas of Europe, againſt the republic of France; and as this country has contracted the guilt of becoming a free nation, we likewiſe are involved, though, *as yet*, but at ſecond hand, in the vengeance of the imperial and royal Vandals. The corſairs of Barbary are now at liberty to attack the veſſels of the United States, not only in the Mediterranean, but alſo in the Atlantic ocean. From the final eſtabliſhment of American independence, ſome attempts are reported to have been made by the American government, to conclude a pacification with the ſtate of Algiers, but for ſome reaſon or other, theſe attempts have hitherto proved unſucceſsful. The circumſtances which have always diſappointed the pacific deſigns of our adminiſtration, deſerve to be inveſtigated.

Several of our late letters from Liſbon agree in aſſerting, that the preſent peace or truce between Algiers and Portugal has been formed by the officious intervention of England, without the knowledge of the latter. The ſame advices add, and their information is univerſally believed, that this has been done by England, that the corſairs of Barbary might have liberty to interrupt the commerce of this country with Europe. Since the commencement of the unfortunate war, that now ſpreads deſolation and bankruptcy over ſo many countries in that quarter of the world, American bottoms, becauſe they were neutral, obtained the preference to thoſe of England in the carrying trade. *They were not liable to be ſeized by French privateers*, and could, therefore, unmoleſted, tranſport the commodities of any one country to any other. This advantage gave our veſſels a decided ſuperiority; and the maſter of an American ſhip frequently received twenty per cent. more for the ſame freight, than would be given to the maſter of an Engliſh veſſel. This humiliating diſtinction alarmed the pride of the Engliſh nation. Diveſted of the carrying trade, the naval deſpotiſm of England would at once ſhrink into nothing. The powers of Europe may reduce her to the natural level of her importance, without the expenſe of firing a ſingle gun. Let them declare, that no veſſel of that country ſhall bring into their harbours, any commodities but thoſe of Britiſh growth or manufacture. Her navy, which has perpetrated ſuch inceſſant miſchief, would then, if I may borrow the trite quotation from Shakeſpeare, vaniſh, *like the baſeleſs fabric of a viſion.*

The Americans, for ſome time time paſt, have been making rapid ſtrides towards her expulſion from the carrying trade.

England could hardly venture, at this criſis, to add a ſecond republic to the catalogue of her enemies. She has, therefore, adopted the miſerable expedient of turning looſe the Algerines, that theſe execrable ruffians might plunder our property, and plunge our fellow-citizens into ſlavery.

Lord Sheffield, in a pamphlet which has obtained more notice than it deſerved, informs the Engliſh nation, "That "it will not be the intereſt of any of the great maritime pow- "ers, to protect the American veſſels from the Barbary ſtates." This benevolent remark has received a proper anſwer from the author of "Obſervations" on his lordſhip's pamphlet. The moderation of ſtile, the candour of reaſoning, and the unqueſtioned authenticity of the facts advanced by Mr. Coxe, deſerve, in an uncommon degree, the attention, and the gratitude of his countrymen.

In conſequence of the peace ſo maliciouſly patched up through the interference of the Britiſh, conſiderable havoc has been made on the American commerce, a number of our veſſels having been taken, and the crews, to the number of above 130, carried into the moſt cruel ſlavery. The whole of theſe depredations were committed in the month of October and November 1793. Shortly afterwards, the court of Portugal ordered its veſſels on their old ſtation, and ſince that time, they have kept the corſairs within the ſtraits, and preſerved our veſſels from their rapine.

When the news of the misfortune of ſo many of our citizens arrived in America, the ſympathy of the public was excited to the higheſt poſſible degree. Committees were appointed in ſeveral places to collect money, for their reſief, if not for their ranſom. The committee appointed in Philadelphia for this purpoſe, received conſiderable ſums; from the managers of the new theatre alone nearly one thouſand dollars. But humanity has to deplore, that a moſt unaccountable torpor has taken place of benevolence and charity on this trying occaſion. Curioſity has in vain exerted itſelf to diſcover, why a buſineſs ſo extremely intereſting, and undertaken with ſo much ardour, has utterly died away, and even ſeemed to have been obliterated from public recollection!

During the laſt ſeſſion of Congreſs, an act was paſſed empowering the Preſident to purchaſe, or cauſe to be built, a number of veſſels for the defence of the commerce of the United States againſt the Algerines. Theſe veſſels are now building—and it is hoped, from the excellence of their conſtruction, and the acknowledged abilities of the gentlemen appointed to command them, that ſhould they ever meet any of thoſe deteſtable pirates, they will fully avenge the injured honour of America.

APPENDIX.

No. I.

Letter from William Penrose, captain of the ship President, to his owners, dated Algiers, November 4, 1793.

ON the 23d October, at nine o'clock A. M. a sail to windward bore down upon us, which we thought was a Spanish privateer; when he came nigh, hoisted Spanish colours, fired a gun to leeward, and brought us to. As soon as he saw the American colours hoisted, he hoisted out the launch immediately. It being then nearly calm, as it had been for eight days before; in an instant there was nearly 30 armed men on board, the first saluted me with a dreadful stroke with his cutlass, made me jump over the rail into the boat and all hands after me, without ever suffering any one to go below, and carried us on board the cruizer, where they stripped us to the skin, and gave us a few old rags, that would scarcely cover our nakedness, let alone keep us from the cold. In this situation, we were obliged to lay on deck; the people they let go below, and Mr. Barry by some means or other, got below for two nights—I was forced to lay on the poop, and the wind being at E. N. E. it almost perished me; but at length an old man, more humane than the rest, lent me a blanket, which they had taken out of the ship. The provisions they gave us was black bread and water, sometimes a few rotten olives, and that we thought was a treat. In this situation we continued eight days.

On the 31st we arrived at Algiers: we thought ourselves hardly treated on board the cruizer; but alas, our sorrows were but coming on; for we were not on shore scarcely, when they almost loaded us with irons, and the second day made us go to work like criminals, and murderers: we are in the most abject slavery ever people were, in the world. The same day arrived two frigates and a brig, who had taken nine more American vessels; so that our number now is above one hundred, and are expecting more daily. They have several cruizers out now, and there are several in the harbour equipping with the utmost speed.

When I was taken, Cape St. Mary's bore N. N. W. 5 or 6 miles distance; made Cape St. Vincent's on the 15th, on the 17th spoke an English brig; but I suppose he had not heard of the Algerines being out of the Streights; for he said nothing about them; but we have every reason to suspect them to be our worst enemies.

There is part of two ships companies here, that was taken eight years ago, but the plague and hard usage hath carried them all off but ten. The small pittance they had from the United States, has been taken off nigh three months, so that we have nothing to subsist on, but a little black bread and water, and sometimes nothing; for it is against their religion to give Christians, any flesh meat; and if you

will be ſo kind as to ſupply me with a few dollars for the preſent, I ſhall take it as the greateſt favour any perſon ever conferred on me, for it is impoſſible to ſubſiſt long in this miſerable ſituation.

No. II.

Extract of a letter from John Bulkeley and Son, to a merchant in this city, dated Liſbon, November 15, 1793.

THE 28th ult. we had the pleaſure of acquainting you of the novelty of the truce made by this court with the regency of Algiers, for 12 months, and as ſuch their cruizers at liberty to cruize without reſtraint of the others as hitherto, which they are actually doing, and no leſs than 8 of their corſairs paſſed into the ocean; ſome reports make them 16 ſail; but we are happy to inform you, that hitherto they have met with little ſucceſs, for we find they captured only one large American ſhip, bound to Barcelona for Spaniſh account—name or where loaded unknown; and this we are adviſed from Gibraltar, under the 28th ult. One letter ſays ſhe was in Tangiers, and another that ſhe paſſed up eſcorted by two xebecks; whether theſe advices mean one or two veſſels, we are at a loſs to determine, for want of further explanation. It is reported four more Americans are captured, but as yet no particulars are mentioned, and our letters by this day's poſt from Cadiz and other ports, are quite ſilent on this head. We conſider and hope the reports ill grounded and ſpread by deſigning perſons for intereſted purpoſes, and have the ſatisfaction to adviſe you that a number of American veſſels are ſafe arrived at this and the ports in Spain; as to their return home, they are free of being captured, as this court and that of Spain, grant them convoys to a certain latitude, whence they are clear of the corſairs, whoſe cruizing ſtation we learn is between Cape St. Vincents and the Weſtern Iſlands; and the veſſels coming to theſe markets ſhould ſteer a contrary courſe, and make Cape Finiſter their firſt land, and from thence coaſt it to their reſpective deſtinations: beſides, as the winter approaches, theſe rovers will ſkulk home, for they will not venture to keep in the ocean during the rough months, being unſkilful navigators, and their veſſels ill calculated to work in theſe ſeas; ſo that, during this ſeaſon there will be no great riſk in calling on us to try this market.

No. III.

Letter from J. Bulkeley and Son to William Bell, dated Liſbon, December 17, 1793.

WE have juſt received the incloſed letter by a Portugueſe frigate: it is we preſume from Captain M'Shane, who had the misfortune of being captured near the mouth of the Streights, by an Algerine cruizer, and carried a ſlave to Algiers.—We feel very much for him, and all the Americans who have fallen victims to the deteſted rovers, and it will give us pleaſure to alleviate their unfortunate ſituation.

We are ſorry to inform you, that on the 5th of November, to the date of Captain M'Shane's letter, there were 120 to 130 poor Americans in ſlavery; and this is not the worſt, the piratical beings came out again into the Atlantic the 29th ult. in ſearch of more plunder, and we fear they will do further miſchief. Their cruizing now is contrary to their old ſyſtem of retiring from the ocean in November, and coming out in April; but they never did much harm to the Portugueſe, for ſince our reſidence in this city, half a century, they captured but three brigs, one ſhip, and three or four ſchooners, and carried them into Algiers. We hope the United States will ſoon eſtabliſh a force to keep thoſe pirates from ever entering the Atlantic again.

We ſuppoſe you have been informed that this court and Spain grant convoys to your flag, as well as thoſe of the Hanſe towns. Our letters from Gibraltar dated the 25th ult. adviſe that a Portugueſe frigate had taken under her protection ſix Americans, to ſee them to the weſtward, out of danger.

No. IV.

Extract of a letter from John M'Shane, captain of the Minerva, to William Bell, dated Algiers, November 13, 1793.

ON the 18th October, about five leagues from Gibraltar, we were boarded by a zebecque of 20 guns, belonging to this place, who after coming within muſket-ſhot, kept up a conſtant firing with ſmall arms, until they manned our yards from theirs, then the firing ceaſed, and they came down ſword in hand, ſpared our lives, but nothing elſe, having ſtripped us of the clothes we had on, and put us on board the zebecque, which brought us to this place on the 30th ult. when we were taken before the dey, from thence to the banyon, where the ſlaves are kept locked up at night: next day we were all ſent to the marine, and kept at hard labor from day light till dark, with an iron chain which reaches from our legs to our hips; about 50lb. weight, and treated with great ſeverity by our maſters, who allow us nothing but bread and water for our ſubſiſtance. The wheel-barrow men in your city lived a genteel life to what we do.

Our ſituation is truly ſhocking—and how long we can exiſt, God only knows. The carpenter, John M'Farlane, a Scotchman, was taken out of the marine, by the Britiſh conſul—the ſail-maker, John Fogereaux, and two Spaniards, G. Romeo and B. Gazona, were ſold at public auction. On the evening of the ſame day, I arrived here, the following maſters with their crews were brought in—Captains Wallace, Virginia; Newman, Boſton; Taylor, Rhode-Iſland; Furnace, New-Hampſhire: Calder, Glouceſter; Burnham, New-York; Bailey, Newbury; Moſs, ditto; Penroſe, Philadelphia.

The whole number of Americans is between 120 and 130. They treat the Dutch in the ſame manner they do us.—Captain O'Brian and Stephens, with their crews are here, ten of them are living, the reſt dead.—If their ſmall number could not be redeemed, we

have no hopes of relief; therefore endeavour to make ourselves as happy as possible: they ask for my ransom 4000 dollars, first and second mate, 3000 dollars each, and for each man, 1500 dollars. If a peace is not made, or our ships protected, we may expect to encrease daily, as we are all employed in the marine department, fitting out cruizers. I have not yet learned their force; but as there is no check on them, no American vessel will be able to go to Europe in safety. A courier is arrived from Alicant, informing the dey that colonel Humphreys is there with full power from Congress, to make a peace, and waits his permission to come; but the dey, I am informed, had refused him. I remain

Your humble servant.

N. B. Names of the crew on board the ship Minerva.

John M'Shane, master; Andrew Tullock, 1st mate; Samuel Millburne, 2d ditto; John M'Farlane, carpenter; John Fogereaux, sail-maker; Abel Willis, cook.

Seamen—Joseph Rogers, William Brown, Thomas Burdon, William Walker, William Grafton, Giani Romeo, Barrotami Gazona, John Sutton, Edward Kerr, Joseph Deitz.

No. V.

Copy of a letter from captain O'Brien, to James Simpson, Esq. at Gibraltar, dated Algiers, the 28th November, 1793.

YOUR letter of the 12th inst. I received the 25th. It is a long period since I heard from you; but I hope you will be this way shortly from Toulon.

The Algerines, in their October expedition, captured ten sail of American vessels; nine of them have safely arrived. The crews of these ten vessels, amounting to 102, are at present in Algiers, experiencing what we have suffered for upwards of eight years.—I have repeatedly, for these five years past, forewarned the United States of the impending danger; for the Portuguese have been trying a long time to effect a peace with Algiers; but the Americans in general would put but little confidence in the assertions of a poor victim captive; but they now find that they contained the truth.

On the 11th instant, Mr. Humphreys, the Ambassador for Algiers, sent hither a courier to obtain the dey's permission to come hither in order to make peace. The dey answered, that he would not receive him, either to make peace or redeem the American slaves—that he had been soliciting the Americans to come and make a peace with this regency for three years past, and they had treated his propositions with neglect and indifference; and that since he had made a truce with the Dutch and Portuguese, and captured ten sail of Americans, and likely to take many more, he could not and would not make peace with them: that he made the truce with Portugal for the purpose of capturing American vessels, and could not therefore be at peace with all nations. The courier returned to Mr. Humphreys at Alicant with the dey's reply—but we have heard nothing more since.

The terms prescribed by the dey for the relief of the Portuguese, is as follows: 1,200,000 Mexican dollars for the treasury; 600,000 dollars for the dey's voice and the great officers, of the regency, ambassadorial and consular presents—equal to what Spain gave; and the redemption of 75 Portuguese captains, at 2000 dollars each. On the 7th inst. the Portuguese frigate sailed from Algiers for Lisbon, with the dey's propositions.

The day following the dey called captain Logie, and desired he would immediately write to Portugal, that he demanded for his family and friends 600,000 dollars in addition to the terms above expressed.

The Algerine politicians are of opinion, that Portugal will not agree to the dey's demands; but, sir, I think they will, as they wish to extend their commerce, and well know the difficulty of blocking up the Streights, and the vast sums they expend in keeping up the fleets against the Barbary States.

The Dutch truce will expire in twelve days from this date; and if Van Trump is not here in the limited time, away go the rovers in quest of Dutchmen.

The Danes, in my opinion, are on the verge of losing their peace with Algiers. Should these three nations be baffled, relative to Algerine affairs, then the United States might probably have an opportunity of establishing a peace; but never on so favourable terms as they might have had three years past; which neglect will cost them four millions, together with loss of trade, insurance, armaments, and peace redemptions. At all events, the United States have no alternative but to fit out twelve of the best sailing vessels that can possibly be built; these cruizers to be properly appointed and completely manned, for all depends on this measure. At the same time, the door for obtaining a peace should be kept open, and care taken that the United States do not become the dupe and buffoon of all Europe.

No. VI.

Letter from sundry captive American captains, to colonel David Humphreys, dated Algiers, December 29th, 1793.

WE the subscribers, in behalf of ourselves, and brother-sufferers, at present captives in this city of human misery, return you our sincere thanks, for your communications of the 29th ult. and for the provision you have been pleased to allow us, in order to alleviate somewhat our sufferings in our present situation.

We have drawn up and signed two petitions, one to the Senate, the other to the House of Representatives, and we shall esteem it, among the many favors you have rendered us, that you will please to forward these petitions to their respective address, so that no time may be lost, but that they be laid before the Representatives of our country, hoping that the United States, will fully provide funds for extricating from captivity, and restore us to our country, families, friend and connections.

We have perused with sentiments of satisfaction and approbation,

your memorial to the regency of Algiers, and have to obſerve, that its contents fully coincide with our ſentiments on this buſineſs, which we truſt, in the Almighty, will terminate to the honour and intereſt of our common country, notwithſtanding the inſinuations, (of others in this quarter) to the prejudice of the United States.

We truſt, and hope, that the United States will adopt ſuch effectual plans, in order to prevent any more of our brethren, ſharing our unhappy fate, which unavoidably muſt happen, if ſome ſpeedy and deciſive means is not immediately put in execution, as we underſtand the Portugueſe truce, with this regency, was agreed on for one year.

What damps our ſprits in ſome degree, is, that we are informed, that the plague, that fatal and tremendous diſorder, has given its awful alarm in the country adjacent. And as your unfortunate countrymen are confined during the night time, in the ſlave-priſons, with ſix hundred captives of other nations, from our crowded ſituation, we muſt be expoſed to this contagious diſorder; which neceſſitates the ſubſcribers, to intreat you, ſir, that in this caſe, thoſe our friends, and of influence in this regency, will be authoriſed by you, and our honoured countrymen, Mr. Charmichael, and Mr. Short, to have a houſe taken for the reſidence of the American maſters and mates, and, if poſſible, the mariners, to ſhield them from the threatening ſtorm of mortality and danger.

We make no doubt, but in caſe of the Almighty's wrath, viſiting this city of iniquity, but the dey and regency would acquieſce to the propoſed plan of humanity, which would be eſtabliſhing an example for the general welfare of mankind—and would to poſterity be recorded to the immortal honor of the United States.

The ſame time, honoured ſir, and friend, be you aſſured, for your conſolation, that we the American captives, in this city of bondage, will bear our ſufferings with fortitude and reſignation, as becoming a race of men endowed with ſuperior ſouls in adverſity.

We are much indebted to Monſ. Skjoldebrand, and brother, his Swediſh majeſty's agents, in this city, for their humanity, and attention to the American captives; and feel ourſelves particularly obliged to you for recommending us to the good offices of conſuls Skjoldebrand, and Mr. Mace, whom you mention to us as friends.

With ſentiments of gratitude and the moſt profound reſpect, we remain, Honored ſir,

Your moſt obedient
moſt humble ſervants,

The ſubſcribers in behalf of ourſelves, and brother-ſufferers.

Richard O'Brien,	1785	*Moſes Morſe,*	1793
Iſaac Stephens,	do.	*Joſeph Ingraham,*	do.
James Taylor,	1793	*Michael Smith,*	do.
William Wallace,	do.	*William Furnaſs,*	do.
Samuel Calder,	do.	*John Burnham,*	do.
William Penroſe,	do.	*John M'Shane,*	do.
Timothy Newman,	do.		

To DAVID HUMPHREYS, Eſq. &c.

No. VII.

To captain O'Brien and the other captains, &c. of the United States, now priſoners in Algers.

Madrid, January 12th, 1794.

I HAVE been favoured by the receipt of your joint letter, dated 29th December, and, as I am about to ſet out immediately for Liſbon, I ſhall be able to do little more than aſſure you that your memorials to the Senate and Houſe of Repreſentatives of the United States ſhall be forwarded to them in the earlieſt and ſafeſt manner poſſible.

Having communicated to Mr. Carmichael, and Mr. Short, your apprehenſion that the plague may again be introduced to Algiers, from the adjacent countries, where it is already ſaid to prevail; we have not heſitated to concur with you in ſentiment, that in caſe of that dreadful event, it might be uſeful for you to have a houſe hired in the country; in order to endeavour, by all human precautions, to prevent your falling victims to that terrible diſorder. Whereupon Mr. Robert Montgomery, conſul of the United States, at Alicant, has been empowered, in caſe that dreadful event ſhould happen, to furniſh ſufficient money to pay for the hire of a houſe, in the manner, and for the purpoſe you propoſe. This proviſional arrangement to continue in force, until Mr. Montgomery ſhall receive ulterior inſtructions from the government of the United States, for continuing or ſuſpending the ſame.

I entreat you will be perſuaded, my dear and unfortunate countrymen, that I receive with great ſatisfaction the marks of your approbation, of the honeſt, but ineffectual efforts I have made in your favor. Would to Heaven, they had been as ſucceſsful, as they were diſintereſted and ſincere.

I have only to repeat, that you may at all times, and on all occaſions, count upon the ſympathetic regard,

And eſteem of your real friend,
And affectionate fellow-citizen,
D. HUMPHREYS.

P. S. Though I have repeatedly remarked, that it may perhaps, (for particular reaſons) be inexpedient for me to keep up a regular correſpondence with you; yet it is proper I ſhould add, that I ſhall always be glad to hear from you; and that it may be particularly intereſting to the government of our country, to receive at the earlieſt poſſible period, all intelligence of importance. I ſhall therefore always be ready to communicate ſuch intelligence, until ſome nearer, and better channel of communication can be eſtabliſhed.

No. VIII.

Treatment of the American Priſoners at Algiers.

WHILE the people of the United States, anxious to preſerve their liberty at home, they cannot be unconcerned at knowing the hard fate of thoſe of their countrymen, who, by being expoſed to the ſevere and perilous duties of the ſea, are rendered at the ſame time obnoxious to, and many of them actually enduring the hard condition of ſlaves, to the moſt ferocious enemies to humanity.

Captain Laurence, of the Hull Packet, was deſirous of obtaining the beſt and moſt authentic information, reſpecting the condition of his unfortunate countrymen in Algiers, obtained it at Cadiz, and now reſpectfully lays it before the American people.——The Americans taken by the Algerines, have their heads cloſe ſhaved; nor are they allowed to wear any kind of covering on the head: they are entirely ſtript of their apparel, and a coarſe dreſs given inſtead of it. At night they are confined in a dungeon, and at day-light led in chains to their uſual work, which is generally rigging and fitting ſhips; ſome are ſent as navigators and pilots on board the cruizers, and are obliged, on pain of puniſhment, to exert themſelves to the utmoſt of their abilities.

Their food is generally bread and water, nor is the leaſt difference made between ſick and well, officers and men, but all treated equally ill. It was reported at Cadiz, that there were ſeveral European navigators lately gone among them; particularly one Kelly, who was tried in Dublin for piracy; and that they were determined to ſcour the weſtern ocean next ſpring. The Hull Packet left Cadiz with an Engliſh fleet, under convoy of a frigate and ſloop of war. A few days after leaving that place, two ſail paſſed the fleet, ſteering in for the Streights, the ſloop of war gave chace and ſpoke them; and captain Laurence was informed they were an Algerine cruizer, and an American ſhip, her prize.

No. IX.

Liſt of American veſſels captured by the Algerines.

SHIP Minerva, John M'Shane, Philadelphia, owned by William Bell, 17 men. Ship Preſident, Willam Penroſe, Philadelphia, owned by John and James Craig, 12 men and a paſſenger. Ship Hope, John Burnham, New-York, 19 men. Ship Thomas, T. Newman, Boſton, owned by Thomas Adams. Brig Jane, Moſes Moſs, Newburyport, owned by himſelf, 8 men. Brig Polly, Michael Smith, Newburyport, owned by Bailey and Royce, 9 men. Brig Olive Branch, William Furnace, Portſmouth, owned by Col. Hamilton, 7 men. Brig George, James Taylor, Newport, owned by Gibbs and Channing, 8 men. Schooner Diſpatch, William Wallace, Richmond, owned by Gillis and Freeland, 7 men, Schooner Jay, Samuel Calder, Glouceſter, owned by E. Parſons. And Capt. Jackſon, from Malaga to America, with fruit.

No. X.

Diſguiſe thyſelf as thou wilt, ſtill, Slavery, ſtill thou art a bitter draught. STERNE.

AND are there ſo great a number of our countrymen groaning under the mercileſs ſcourges of foreign ſlavery? Confined in a dark and unwholeſome dungeon, loaded with galling irons, and ſighing out their unremitted unavailing complaints, unaſſiſted, unrelieved. The refreſhing gales of wind are not permitted to fan their emaciated bodies, nor the cooling water from the ſprings to quench their parching thirſt. The unrelenting maſter raiſes the bloody ſcourge, and exalts the engine of inhuman barbarity. Vain and fruitleſs their inceſſant ſupplications, their cries are loſt in air, and reſignation is their only antidote. The moſt ſtriking pictures, though exhibited by the pencil of a HOGARTH, affecting indeed to the imagination, yet fall infinitely ſhort of the reality. Their accumulated wretchedneſs far tranſcends the power of deſcription. Bereft of every dawn of conſolation—filled with excruciating woe, they tremble, faint and ſink under the preſſure of affliction. Oh, my countrymen, is no reſource in ſtore to ſnatch thoſe of your brethren who are yet living from an ignominious diſſolution! Is there no hand to adminiſter the conſolatory cordial of redreſs?—Now is the ſeaſon to exert our philanthropy—and what occaſion ſo preſſing?—what time ſo proper?

Decius, the humane, benevolent man!—the affectionate parent, and reſpectable citizen—he who vindicated the ſacred cauſe of Liberty, and adorned ſociety by inflexible honour and probity, whoſe heart was the receptacle of diſtinguiſhed virtues—he

" Who had a tear for pity, and a hand
" Open as day for melting charity!"

Behold him cruelly rent from the embraces of a beloved wife—from the arms of his infants—from every object beneath the circling rays of the ſun, that could afford a gleam of momentary joy, and conſigned to chains and miſery! See him groaning under the burden impoſed upon him; and bearing a ſtill heavier weight within. He ſilently wipes away the involuntary tear which rolls down his emaciated cheek, and ſtruggles to ſuppreſs the riſing ſigh. Follow him when evening approaches into his deſtined dungeon—Obſerve the ſettled melancholy which preys upon his haggard countenance—Reſtleſs thought preſents to his tortured imagination the happy moments of love and liberty! He now gives free ſcope to the moſt impaſſioned grief, and bewails his cruel deſtiny—the briny torrent guſhes unreſtrained from his eyes, and waters the moiſtened earth.—He exclaims, " Happy, thrice happy days of former proſperity, gone, gone for ever! My eyes behold no more the ineffable ſmiles of friendſhip, or the endearing face of love! All nature is a vale of horror,—a howling waſte—My dear children—my wife, Oh!" Overwhelmed by heart-rending anguiſh, the ſtupor of inſenſibility affords him a momentary alleviation! Such ſcenes of woe audibly demand the interpoſition of our rulers and citizens—If the yoke of Britiſh oppreſſion ſeemed to

us ſo inſupportable—if we reſolutely determined to riſk our lives in an attempt to throw it off—Remember how vaſtly diſſimilar the compariſon betwixt our then ſituation and that of thoſe wretched captives—Every exertion ſhould be attempted if poſſible to emancipate thoſe of our brethren in captivity, who may yet ſurvive. Let us adopt the ſentiment of the admirable Roſſeau—" No man," ſays he, " can boaſt of having leiſure, while there remains good to be done, his country to ſerve, or wretches to relieve."

No. XI.

Letter from Meſſrs. Wignell and Reinagle, managers of the New Theatre, Philadelphia, to John Barclay, Eſq. chairman of the committee appointed to collect ſubſcriptions for the relief of the priſoners at Algiers.

WE have the pleaſure to incloſe you a draft for nine hundred forty-one dollars being the profit of one night's performance at our theatre, the 23d March laſt, in aid of the fund for the relief of citizens of Philadelphia in captivity at Algiers.

A further ſubſcription by the individual members of the company is on foot, and when compleated will be forwarded to you.

We have the honor to be
with the greateſt reſpect, ſir,
your obedient humble ſervants.
WIGNELL AND REINAGLE.

Philadelphia, 9th April, 1794.
John Barclay, Eſq.

No. XII.

THE ſum of two hundred and fifty-ſix pounds two ſhillings and ſixpence ſterling, was the amount of the benefit night at the theatre in Charleſton, (S. C.) for the American captives in Algiers, which ſum was depoſited by Meſſrs. Weſt and Bignal, in the treaſury of that ſtate.

No. XIII.

Extracts from a " Poem on the happineſs of America," by Colonel Humphreys.

HOW long will heav'n reſtrain its burſting ire,
Nor rain blue tempeſts of devouring fire?
How long ſhall widows weep their ſons in vain,
The prop of years in ſlav'ry's iron chain?
How long the love-ſick maid, unheeded, rove
The ſounding ſhore, and call her abſent love;
With waſting tears and ſighs his lot bewail,
And ſeem to ſee him in each coming ſail?

How long the merchant turn his failing eyes,
In deſperation, on the ſeas and ſkies,
And aſk his captur'd ſhips, his raviſh'd goods,
With frantic ravings, of the heav'ns and floods?
How long, Columbians dear! will ye complain
Of theſe curſt inſults on the open main?
In timid ſloth, ſhall injur'd brav'ry ſleep?
Awake! awake! avengers of the deep!
Revenge! revenge! the voice of nature cries:
Awake to glory, and to vengeance riſe!
To arms! to arms! ye bold indignant bands!
'Tis heav'n inſpires; 'tis God himſelf commands.
Save human nature from ſuch deadly harms,
By force of reaſon, or by force of arms.
O ye great pow'rs, who paſſports baſely crave,
From Afric's lords to ſail the midland wave—
Great fall'n pow'rs, whoſe gems and golden bribes
Buy paltry paſſports from theſe ſavage tribes—
Ye, whoſe fine purples, ſilks, and ſtuffs of gold
(An annual tribute) their dark limbs infold—
Ye, whoſe mean policy for them equips,
To plague mankind, the predatory ſhips—
Why will you buy your infamy ſo dear?
Is it ſelf-int'reſt, or a daſtard fear?
Is it becauſe ye meanly think to gain
A richer commerce on the infeſted main?
Is it becauſe ye meanly wiſh to ſee
Your rivals chain'd, yourſelves ignobly free?
Who gave commiſſions to theſe monſters fierce,
To hold in chains the humbled univerſe?
Would God, would nature, would their conqu'ring ſwords,
Without your meanneſs, make them ocean's lords?
What! Do you fear? nor dare their pow'r provoke,
Would not that bubble burſt beneath your ſtroke?
And ſhall the weak remains of barb'rous rage,
Inſulting, triumph o'er th' enlighten'd age?
Do ye not feel confuſion, horror, ſhame,
To bear a hateful, tributary name?
Will ye not aid to wipe the foul diſgrace,
And break the fetters from the human race?
Then, though unaided by thoſe mighty pow'rs,
Ours be the toil; the dangers, glory ours:
Then, O my friends, by heav'n ordain'd to free,
From tyrant rage the long infeſted ſea—
Then let us firm, though ſolitary ſtand,
The ſword, and olive branch in either hand:
An equal peace propoſe with reaſon's voice,
Or ruſh to arms, if arms ſhould be their choice.
But hark! the trumps, as if by whirlwinds blown,
Sound from cold Lawrence to the burning zone!
Thy cauſe humanity that ſwells their breath,
Wakes in each boſom cool contempt of death,

By rumbling drums, from diſtant regions call'd,
Men, ſcorning pirate rage, ſtart unappall'd:
With eye-balls flaming, cheeks of crimſon fluſh,
From rice-green fields, and fir-clad mountains, ruſh
High-mettled youth—unus'd to fights of ſlain,
Of hoſtile navies, or the ſtormy main—
Enrag'd, they leave unfiniſh'd furrows far,
To dare the deep, and toil in fields of war:
From dreams of peace, ſtern-viſag'd vet'rans wake,
Their rattling arms, with graſp indignant, ſhake;
Thoſe arms, their pride, their country's gift, what day
To independence they had op'd the way;
Frowning wide ruin, terrible they riſe,
Like battling thunders burſting from the ſkies.
From Erie's inland vales, unnam'd in ſong,
In native fierceneſs pour the hunter throng;
Beneath their rapid march realms roll behind;
Their uncomb'd locks looſe floating on the wind;
Coarſe their worn garbs—they place their only pride
In the dread rifle, oft in battle tried.
With aim unbaulk'd, whoſe leaden vengeance ſings,
Sure as the dart the king of terrors flings:
So erſt, brave Morgan, thy bold hunters ſped—
Such light-arm'd youths the gallant Fayette led,
Ere Steuben brought the Pruſſian lore from far,
Or Knox created all the ſtores of war.
Thro' tented fields impatient ardour ſpreads—
Rous'd by the trump the courſers rear their heads,
Snuff in the tainted gale the ſulph'rous grain,
Reſponſive neigh, and prance the wide champaign.
Now preparation forms the gleaming blade;
In moulds capacious pond'rous deaths are made:
In crouded docks th' inceſſant labour glows;
The tool reſounds—the wond'rous ſtructure grows—
Propp'd on the ſtocks, ſtupendous navies ſtand,
Raiſe their huge bulks, and darken all the ſtrand;
Till tow'ring fleets, from different harbours join'd
Float on the pinions of the fav'ring wind;
Tall groves of maſts, like mountain foreſts, riſe;
Wav'd high in air, the crimſon ſtreamer flies:
To proſp'rous gales the canvaſs wide unfurl'd
Bears the rous'd vengeance round the watry world:
See! ocean whitens with innum'rous ſails;
Be ſtill, ye ſtorms! breathe ſoft, ye friendly gales!
See! where Columbia's mighty ſquadron runs
To climes illum'd by other ſtars and ſuns;
Gains the deep ſtreight; aſcends the midland wave,
Of ancient fleets th' unfathomable grave!
When freedom's ardent chiefs, with eager eye,
Dim thro' the miſt the corſair force deſcry;
Their cloudlike ſails hang in the diſtant heav'n,
Like ſhad'wy vapours of aſcending ev'n—

Here o'er the topmaſt, flames th' imperial ſtar,
There the red creſcent leads the coming war.
Th' obſtructions clear'd—obliquely on the gales—
With open ports—half-furl'd the flapping ſails—
Near and more near athwart the bill'wy tide,
In terrors arm'd, the floating bulwarks glide;
Tier pil'd o'er tier, the ſleeping thunder lies,
Anon to rend the ſhud'ring main and ſkies.
Ere yet they ſhut the narrow ſpace between,
Begins the prelude of a bloodier ſcene—
With ſudden touch, deep-throated engines roar,
Pierce heav'n's blue vault, and daſh the waves to ſhore;
Then mad'ning billows mock the fearful ſound,
While o'er their ſurface globes of iron bound;
Unknown concuſſions rolling o'er their heads,
Far fly the monſters round their coral beds,
The battle cloſes—fiercer fights begin—
And hollow hulls reverberate the din:
The green waves blacken, as the tempeſt lours,
Chain bolts and langrage rain in dreadful ſhow'rs;
Ship lock'd to ſhip, hangs o'er the foaming flood,
The black ſides wrapt in flame, the decks in blood:
From both the lines now ſmoke, now flames aſpire,
Now clouds they roll, now gleam a ridge of fire;
On hoſtile prows, Columbia's heroes ſtand,
Conqu'ring 'mid death, or dying ſword in hand:
Promiſcuous cries, with ſhouts confus'dly drown'd,
In the wild uproar, ſwell the dol'rous ſound:
And nought diſtinct is heard, and nought is ſeen,
Where wreaths of vapour hov'ring intervene,
Save when black grains expand impriſon'd air,
The thunders wake, and ſhoot a livid glare:
Then ghaſtly forms are ſeen by tranſient gleams,
The dead and wounded drench'd in purple ſtreams.
Now helmleſs ſhips in devious routes are driv'n,
The cordage torn, the maſts to atoms riv'n:
Now here they glow with curling waves of fire,
In one exploſion total crews expire.
Here barks relinquiſh'd, burnt to ocean's brink,
Half veil'd in crimſon clouds begin to ſink.
With men ſubmerg'd, there frailer fragments float,
Here yawning gulfs abſorb th' o'erloaded boat:
There red-hot balls, that graze the waters, hiſs,
And plunge the gallies down the dread abyſs.
Here ſhatter'd limbs—there garments dipt in blood,
With mingling crimſon ſtain the foughten flood,
While Afric's pirates, ſhrinking from the day,
By terror urg'd, drag wounded hulks away.
As when two adverſe ſtorms impetuous driv'n,
From eaſt and weſt, ſail up the azure heav'n,

In flaming fields of day together run,
Explode their fires, and blot with night the ſun—
The eaſtern cloud, its flames expir'd at laſt,
Flies from the light'ning of the weſtern blaſt:
So fled the corſair line the blightning ſtroke
Of freedom's thunder—ſo their battle broke—
As if by heav'n's own arm ſubdu'd at length,
Their courage periſh'd, wither'd all their ſtrength.
Oh then let vict'ry ſtimulate the chace,
To free from ſhameful chains the human race,
To drive theſe pirates from th' inſulted waves,
To ope their dungeons to deſpairing ſlaves,
To ſnatch from impious hands and break the rod,
Which erſt defac'd the likeneſs of a God:
Then ſeize th' occaſion, call the furious gales,
Crack bending oars, ſtretch wide inflated ſails;
On rapid wings of wind the tempeſt bear,
Make death's deep tubes with lurid lightnings glare:
Like evaneſcent miſts diſpel their hoſts,
And with deſtruction's beſom ſweep their coaſts.
Woe to proud Algiers; to your princes woe!
Your pride is falling with your youths laid low—
Woe to ye people, woe, diſtreſs, and fears!
Your hour is come to drink the cup of tears:
A ghaſtly paleneſs gathers on your cheeks,
While mem'ry haunts your ears with captive ſhrieks;
Then ſtifled conſcience wak'ning dares to cry,
"Think on your crimſon crimes, deſpair and die."—
Then ruin comes, with fire, and ſword, and blood,
And men ſhall aſk, where once your cities ſtood!
And lo! ſucceſsful from heroic toils,
With glory cover'd, and enrich'd with ſpoils,
With garlands waving o'er theſe ſpoils of war,
The pomp preceded by th' imperial ſtar,
'Mid ſhouts of joy, from liberated ſlaves,
In triumph ride th' avengers of the waves.
And ſee they gain Columbia's happy ſtrand,
Where anxious crouds in expectation ſtand.
See raptur'd nations hail the kindred race,
And court the heroes to their fond embrace:
In fond embraces ſtrain'd, the captive clings,
And feels and looks unutterable things.
See there the widow finds her darling ſon,
See in each others' arms the lovers run,
With joy tumultuous their ſwoll'n boſoms glow,
And one ſhort moment pays for years of woe!
When grateful ſports and feſtal ſongs proclaim
Their joys domeſtic, and their diſtant fame.

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